

THE TIMES

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Portillo's defence of sovereignty wins acclaim from Major and party faithful

Tories make Europe their battleground

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MICHAEL PORTILLO reclaimed the leadership of the Tory Right yesterday with an outspoken attack on Brussels, endorsed by the Prime Minister, which confirmed that the Conservatives will play the Euro-sceptic card at the next general election.

The Defence Secretary won ecstatic acclaim at the party conference for an unashamedly nationalist speech in which he roared beyond his ministerial brief to defend British sovereignty and call on schools to teach the real history of heroes and bravery.

He declared that Britain would not be told by Brussels when to fight and when not to fight, that no Conservative Government would allow Britain to join a single European army, and he attacked those "sleepwalking" to a European superstate.

His speech came as leading Euro-sceptics declared a truce with the Government and as Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, gave a further signal that official policy has shifted. Mr Rifkind said the Government was prepared to be unpopular and isolated in Europe in the pursuit of British interests, and to further move away from Brussels, he outlined his plan for a transatlantic free trade zone taking in the European Union and North America.

Mr Portillo's salvo against the European Commission, a near-repeat of the performance that earned him adulation last year, went a long way to regaining the ground he lost on the Right during the Tory leadership contest, when John

Redwood challenged Mr Major and Mr Portillo stayed uneasily on the sidelines. What was surprising was that Mr Major's friends went out of their way to promote the speech in advance and make plain that it had his approval. The Prime Minister led the prolonged applause for Mr

“If there is a section of the party unimpressed by the spectacle of a politician with permed hair strutting his way into their affections on the reflected glory of real soldiers who take real risks, it was silent yesterday.”

Matthew Parris, page 2

Portillo and was the first to shake his hand afterwards.

It was the clearest signal that Mr Major has decided to make Tony Blair's enthusiastic Europeanism a general election issue and it left the Tory left looking isolated. Peter Temple-Morris, pro-European MP for Leominster, said that Mr Portillo's speech ignored the realities of the present and Britain's military history. "Brussels is castigated here, there and everywhere,

But Brussels does not pretend to control our defence policy."

The unofficial pact between the Government and the Right was underlined by a series of speeches on the conference fringe. Norman Lamont turned his fire on Mr Blair, saying a Labour government could throw away Britain's independence, while Lord Tebbit suggested that shifts in the Government's position were bringing the party together. Only Mr Redwood departed from the mood of conciliation by trying to push Mr Major further than he wants to go and pledging that Britain would never join up to a single currency.

Senior MPs noted that, for all his passionate rhetoric, Mr Portillo had not stepped out of line on policy. For the moment, they suggested, Mr Major is happy to see him as the "licensed rightwinger" with Mr Redwood isolated on the fringe. For their part, the sceptics are happy to treat Labour as the main enemy after three years of civil war.

Mr Portillo went for Brussels mercilessly in his speech. He laughed off the idea of it having any part in Britain's defence, saying that it might want to "haircut uniforms and cap badges, or even to militarise them". The European Court, he mused, would probably want to stop the army fighting for more than 40 hours a week, and send half the troops home on paternity leave. Britain would not join a single European army. "While John Major is Prime Minister, Malcolm Rifkind is at the Foreign Office and I am



Portillo acknowledges the applause. He wants a return to teaching history of heroes

Defence Secretary, the foreign and defence policies of this country will not be dictated to us by a majority vote of a council of ministers."

He declared that Britain was blessed with brave soldiers, sailors and airmen, willing to give their lives — but for Britain and not for Brussels. He urged schools to teach children "the real history of heroes and bravery, of good versus evil, of freedom against

tyranny. Of Nelson, Wellington and Churchill."

Mr Rifkind had earlier dismissed Labour as "babes in the wood" on Europe and said: "Either Britain will have a government that is prepared to be unpopular and occasionally isolated in defence of British interests, or it will have a government that will give in when the going gets tough."

Mr Blair last night attacked Mr Portillo's speech as an

extreme, juvenile and ill-informed tirade. "Nobody is suggesting that we replace British armed forces with a European army," he said. "Mr Portillo has failed to recognise that we have had collective security in Europe through Nato for more than 40 years."

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Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, and
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Former nanny tells how she was bound and beaten by Wests

By Richard Duce and Bill Frost

ROSEMARY and Frederick West abducted a teenage hitch-hiker and subjected her to a protracted and violent sex ordeal, occasionally breaking off to give her cups of tea. Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Caroline Owens, now 39, said she was taken to the Wests' home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, gagged with sticky tape and assaulted by the couple while lying bound and gagged on a mattress. The prosecution claims that the attack on the Wests' former nanny was a blueprint for a series of killings to follow.

Mrs Owens was remarkably composed as she relived her night of "terror and panic" on December 6, 1972, when she had just turned 17. She had stopped working for the Wests as a nanny and was hitch-hiking from Tewkesbury to her home in Cinderford, Gloucestershire, after seeing her boyfriend.

The Wests pulled up in their grey Ford Popular and offered her a lift. Mrs Owens said: "Rose got out and pulled the seat forward and said 'I'll sit in the back so I can have a chat with Caroline.' They said that they wanted to know how I was getting on and they missed me and the children missed me. As we left Gloucester they started talking to me in a smutty manner. Rosemary had her arm around the back of me and she started touching my breasts."

"I think that is when Fred said 'What's her tits like?' She was trying to grab hold of me and grinning and laughing. Not a nice laugh. She tried to grab me between the legs."

"I was struggling with her. It was getting a bit out of hand. I was panicking. They were saying things to each other. I can't remember in detail. It was smutty. Talking

about me and about my body. Fred pulled up onto a grass verge near a gate to a farm field. She was still trying to touch me. He turned around in his seat and started punching me around the head. He was calling me names. 'Bitch' and that."

She said she was punched around the head three times and lost consciousness. "When I came round my arms had been tied around me with a scarf and they were putting tape around my head over my mouth." She said the tape was



Caroline Owens: was gagged with sticky tape

brownish and gummy but she was still able to breathe through her nose. "Rose was holding me and Fred was putting the tape round."

Mr Leveson asked: "What was your reaction?" Mrs Owens said: "Terror, panic." She said she could not open her mouth even though she had tried. Mr Leveson said: "Had you any idea what was going to happen to you?" She replied: "Not really. I didn't think I was going to go home again."

She was driven to Cromwell Continued on page 3, col 1

Workfare scheme to cut welfare bill

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR is set to announce an expansion of workfare-style schemes to curb long-term unemployment and to ease pressures on the spiralling social security bill.

The proposal is being given serious consideration for inclusion in the Prime Minister's speech to the Tory conference in Blackpool on Friday. It will be seen as one concrete result of the review of the welfare state under way in Whitehall and the Downing Street policy unit.

The workfare principle — that benefits depend on claimants taking up state-subsidised jobs or training places — has been embraced by ministers. The job seeker's allowance, which comes into effect next year, will require claimants to show they have been actively seeking work. Job-

centre staff will have the power to cut or withdraw benefits if people refuse to co-operate.

Ministers played down this aspect of the legislation for fear of stoking up opposition when the Job Seekers Bill went through Parliament earlier in the year. Mr Major is expected to put renewed impetus behind the workfare principle and to announce that pilot schemes aimed at getting the jobless back to work will be expanded or put on a national footing.

The Prime Minister has also been "studying" proposals which would require single mothers with school-age children to make themselves available for work if they want to claim benefits. A number of pilot schemes for unemployed people aged 18-24 and without a job for a year or more have been tried. They include Workstart, under which employers are paid a state subsidy of £60 a week for six months for taking on such a worker and £30 a week for the next six months.

Mr Major hinted at a tougher approach to welfare in his speech to Tory agents on Monday night in Blackpool. He said: "This party will never turn a blind eye to those less well off in society, but won't patronise them either. Enterprise and liberty are core Conservative principles — as are responsibility and self-help."

France in chaos as 5m strike

A 24-hour strike by France's five million public employees closed schools, post offices and most public transport, plunging France into a commuter chaos. The strike, uniting seven unions for the first time in a decade, was launched to protest at a wage freeze proposed by the Government of Prime Minister Alain Juppé.

With most buses and trains standing idle, and the Paris Métro running at a fraction of its full capacity, millions of French workers were forced to walk to and from work or sit in vast traffic jams. But a poll released by *Le Parisien* found that 57 per cent of the population supported the strike and only 26 per cent opposed it. Page 11

Sarajevo comes back to life
A ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina, delayed by 24 hours, was expected to be in place by midnight last night, although heavy fighting continued yesterday. The peace momentum took a rapid step forward when gas and electricity supplies began in Sarajevo.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that London would host a conference to discuss a comprehensive peace settlement. Page 13

Cambridge picks a winner with a professor of the turf

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

CAMBRIDGE University will today unite "turf and gown" by appointing the country's first professor of race horse breeding.

William Allen, a world expert in horse fertility, will use the chair to rear a new generation of champion racers. Dr Allen, whose clients include top breeder Sheikh Mohammed, will teach trainee vets pioneering techniques to give British stables the edge. One of the biggest breeding problems is keeping mares of champions producing foals into their old age.

Students will be able to learn from Dr Allen's work with thoroughbreds such as Dancing Brave, winner of the 2,000 Guineas in 1986. The horse went on to sire Commander In Chief, the 1993 Derby winner, after Dr Allen helped it to recover from a serious illness.

He will maintain his links with Sheikh Mohammed, giving trainee vets the chance to study in Dubai.

Dr Allen, a 55-year-old Cambridge graduate from New Zealand, said: "We have assisted in establishing a camel reproduction laboratory in Dubai and I already have a research student there helping with raising racing camels."

Dr Allen is currently director of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association equine fertility unit at Newmarket. He will divide his time be-



William Allen, Professor of Equine Reproduction

tween the unit and the university when he is named today as the inaugural Jim Joel Professor of Equine Reproduction.

The chair, worth £650,000 over ten years, is funded by £150,000 from the TBA and £500,000 from the Childwick Trust. The late Mr Joel, a South African diamond merchant and horse breeder, set up the trust to distribute his fortune to a range of good causes, including disabled people, the aged and horse racing.

Students will spend several weeks at a time at the unit, set in 114 acres on the edge of the Duke of Sutherland's Stewarth Estate, learning to use an ultra-sound scanner developed to check horse pregnancies.

Dr Allen also has his own pedigree in the world of rac-

ing. Frankie Dettori, the champion jockey, is his daughter's boyfriend.

Success at the bookmakers, however, is not likely to be a by-product for hard-up students from the new link. Dr Allen said: "I never pass tips on — not because it is unethical, but because I am a bad gambler and I always seem to pick the wrong ones."

He added: "This is a unique joining of turf and gown. At long last in this country students are going to start specialising during their undergraduate vet training which has not been possible in the past. I hope we will turn out superior specialist vets which is important to the horse-breeding industry because it is a major unsung earner of overseas funds."

Leading article, page 17

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Portillo eschews gravitas and swoops to conquer

"WHO dares wins!" cried Michael Portillo in what can only be seen as a coded message of support for John Redwood's bid for leadership of the Tory Right. In a vulgar speech, largely devoid of content, Mr Portillo wowed Tory representatives here in Blackpool by declaring in his gruffest voice that a Conservative government would never do a number of things nobody had ever suggested a Conservative government would ever dream of doing anyway.

The conference loved it, cheering and stamping. If there is a section of the party unimpressed by the spectacle of a politician with permed hair strutting his way into their affections on the reflected glory of real soldiers who take real risks, it was silent yesterday.

Mr Portillo took no risks. The more blood a Tory speaker brings into his speech, the less of his own he risks. I remember the Michael Portillo I used to know and ask myself whether this new Portillo has honestly come to believe all this guff, or whether he knows it's guff, but says it anyway. It is debatable which would be more chilling.

The Tories' new logo this year seemed to glow behind

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

thing silly. He failed to make an exhibition of himself, and therefore, in conference terms, failed. Eschewing theatricality, he was received with a crouching ovation.

People will therefore say that Mr Rifkind is not a "communicator", but his speech harked back to an era when audiences could tolerate dryness, could appreciate why some things were best left unsaid, counted circumference a virtue in politics, and did not demand that every speech be a religious or sexual experience.

Watching Tony Blair last week, and Michael Portillo yesterday, it struck me that a modern political audience expects to be masturbated by its speakers. Portillo knows this. It is rather unsavoury.

Arrested supporter linked to neo-Nazis

An England football supporter arrested before tonight's match with Norway is thought to be linked with a British neo-Nazi group.

The man was one of nine Britons held with a Dane at Sarpsborg as they left a train from Denmark. "We believe one of the Britons is linked with Combat 18," an Oslo police chief said. A political banner was found in the Dane's luggage. Combat 18 violence caused the abandonment of the last England away game, against Ireland in February.

Three other Britons were expelled after being stopped at Fornebu airport, Oslo, after flying from Newcastle upon Tyne.

Home burial
Lord Home of the Hirsel, who died on Monday aged 92, will be buried on Saturday at a private ceremony near his home, his family said. The former Conservative Prime Minister will be laid to rest in the family plot at Leamington cemetery at Coldstream, Borders, next to his wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1990, and his father, the 13th Earl of Home.

Tourist gored
A British tourist was recovering from severe internal injuries last night after being charged by an elephant in a Zimbabwe game park. Caroline Suckley, 30, from Shropshire, was tossed into the air and gored while taking photographs in the Mana Pools reserve on the Zambezi river. A guide scared off the elephant and Ms Suckley was rushed to hospital in Harare.

Mortgage deal
A building society that rejected a pensioner's request for a mortgage has backed down after apparent pressure from David Curry, the Housing Minister. Margie Gibbs, 71, had been refused a £10,500 loan to buy her council house in Chapeldown, Leeds, after the Bradford and Bingley said it was "in an inner-city area associated with prostitution and drug abuse".

Road challenge
Seven asthmatic children from Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, southeast London, have been given leave to challenge their council's decision not to close the road during times of high pollution. Mr Justice Popplewell granted leave for judicial review after deciding the matter was "just about capable of being argued" while voicing concern as to where the traffic would go.

Heap of history
A slag heap at Merthyr Tydfil is to be saved for posterity as a monument to the local iron and coal industry after the Welsh Secretary upheld a compulsory purchase order by Mid Glamorgan County Council. The owner of the land had planned to sell the spoil as hard core for roads but now the council is to develop a heritage walk by the heap.

Private schools to seek greater role in the community

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE headmasters of leading independent schools promised yesterday to open their doors to more pupils from low-income families, no matter which party won the next general election.

Hugh Wright, chairman of the Headmasters' Conference (HMC), appealed to ministers to expand the assisted places scheme, which supports 30,000 pupils whose families cannot afford independent education. But he told members at a meeting in Dublin that independent schools could also work with a Labour government.

they are very interested in discussing this. Labour has assured the Headmasters' Conference that no policy has been agreed on independent education beyond the commitment to phase out assisted places. The threat to the schools' charitable status has not been removed but Labour is anxious to pursue a dialogue on extending the use of facilities by local communities.

Mr Wright offered to extend the use of the facilities of Headmasters' Conference schools but added that he hoped local authorities would buy places in independent education "by whatever means and in whatever new way can be devised". He said: "It is surely in everyone's interest that our schools should be available to as many in the community as possible."

Mr Wright said independent schools would not expect the level of support for each pupil to be increased. The cost of expansion would be minimal because the beneficiaries would otherwise have to be educated in state schools. Estimates agreed with the Department of Education and Employment suggest there is little difference in costs per head, especially in sixth forms.

The HMC has put no figure on its appeal for more places. Most of the 30,000 existing places have been filled this year. Mr Wright said: "Independent schools by their history, traditions, and present contribution to the community are an integral part of the national education system in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and not peripheral to it. I say to all politicians of all parties that you cannot afford to be without us."

we do not favour any alternative to the assisted places scheme. The headmasters may have more success with their appeal to the Government. Ministers have been discussing an expansion of the assisted places scheme and there might be an announcement at the Conservative Party conference today.

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AN AMERICAN company director made legal history yesterday when she became the first witness to give evidence to an industrial tribunal via a transatlantic satellite link.

Martha Wilke Murray sat in her office in Chicago more than 3,000 miles away as she gave evidence in the case of Keith Pickavance, a senior member of her company's London office, who is accused of sexual harassment. The tribunal, which moved from Croydon in south London to the City of London, was told that the video link could be made, heard claims by Patricia Bessey, 35, of alleged sexual harassment by Mr Pickavance while she worked as a senior consultant for Peterson Consultants.

She said she had refused to go away on a golfing weekend with Mr Pickavance because of sexual implications and that she was then given a dead-end job. Miss Bessey, of southwest London, said that Mr Pickavance, who is in his early 50s, had suggested to her a couple of times that she needed a man and should consider an older man.

She also felt uncomfortable with his jokes after a trip with him to the Henley regatta when she had been forced to buy a longer skirt. She added that a birthday card faxed to her hotel in the United States was signed by everyone in the London office "and specially Keith".

Ms Murray said Miss Bessey had complained to her about his abrasive manner and dictatorial style. "There were no examples of sexual harassment of any examples that I could view," she said. Mr Pickavance denied harassment and said he had once

had to admonish Miss Bessey for having arranged a birthday party stripper to perform in the office at 10am.

The distance caused a slight time delay before Mrs Murray, vice president of Peterson Consultants, a firm of damage assessors, could hear what was being asked of her. A link to Chicago enabled Mrs Murray to see her questioners, witnesses and the press.

Judge John Altman, the tribunal chairman, said the decision to use the video link had been taken following a report by Lord Woolf which advised technology could keep down escalating legal costs. He said: "We are making use of the video link by satellite because of the enormous expense of bringing the witness to London."

The tribunal continues tomorrow.

Patricia Bessey says she was sexually harassed

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BBC attacked after delaying news for Mawhinney speech

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC was at the centre of a political row yesterday after it delayed the One O'Clock News on BBC1 by nine minutes to make way for a conference speech by the Tory party chairman Brian Mawhinney.

The move prompted an angry letter to John Birt, the BBC Director-General, from John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, demanding to know why the corporation had "caved in to Tory pressure".

Describing Dr Mawhinney's speech as a "pathetic piece of not very amusing and not very effective knock-about", Mr Prescott said: "The

idea that such a speech should be the lead item, followed by another interview with Mawhinney, is just a big joke."

The BBC responded by reminding Mr Prescott that it dropped two of its hourly television news bulletins last week to make way first for Tony Blair's conference address on Tuesday and then for Mr Prescott's own speech on Friday.

A BBC spokesman said that the decision to delay yesterday's One O'Clock News had been taken on editorial grounds, adding that it had not been contacted by anyone

in the Conservative Party. The delay in the news had been signalled to viewers by an on-screen message.

The spokesman said: "The BBC is committed to extensive live coverage of the main party conferences as part of its public service role. The decision to delay the start of the One O'Clock News by a few minutes was made when Dr Mawhinney's keynote speech overran because of an earlier technical problem in the conference hall." It is understood there had been problems with the autocue.

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Spin battles, page 23

Spin battles, page 23

Spin battles, page 23

EGYPTIAN GOVT TO NATIONALISE SAND

Until then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.



Computer delay likely to upset rail schedules

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A COMPUTER system developed by Railtrack to co-ordinate train schedules across the network after privatisation will not be ready for the sell-off next spring.

The delay has forced Railtrack to fall back on British Rail's existing system in the months leading up to the first sale of passenger franchises. However, the current BR software is not designed to cope with competition between rival operators and it is feared that the setback could trigger a timetable fiasco in May that will dwarf last month's problems with the winter schedules.

Computer experts believe Railtrack massively underestimated the complexity of the software needed to cope with 25 competing companies after the break-up of the industry. Under the old system the divisions of BR agreed when trains would move around the network. However, Tony Collins, of Computer Weekly, says that as the 25 operating companies prepare for privatisation, they are becoming increasingly secretive.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11 1995

Former nanny was bound, gagged and assaulted

SÂN FRANCES

Continued from page 1

Street and taken into a first floor room where she saw what was either a double mattress or bed on the floor. Mr Leveson asked: "Did either of them say anything?" She replied: "Fred said if I was good he would take the tape off and he cut the tape." She said that the knife was double-bladed, and that Mr West apologised after cutting her slightly by the ear.

"They sat me on the sofa and Rose sat next to me and started trying to kiss me. She was touching my breast. I said 'Get off, leave me alone.' She just continued. It was then that Rose went and made some cups of tea."

Asked if she had a cup, she replied: "Yes. She was then untied and undressed. They tied my hands back up again and gagged me with cotton wool. They put me on the bed on my back. I was blindfolded and Rose got undressed."

Mr Leveson asked: "What did you feel?" Mrs Owens said: "It was like being examined in my genital area."

"Fred got a leather belt and Rose held my feet while Fred beat me between the legs. She said she could see the belt but could not remember whether she was still wearing a blindfold. She said she was hit about ten times with the buckle."

"Rose did oral sex on me. I don't know if I was being held or not. Fred was watching then he took his clothes off and got behind Rose and started to have sex with her at the same time."

She said this went on for some ten minutes. Mr Leveson asked: "How were you feeling about all this?" Mrs Owens replied: "I felt sick and scared."



Rosemary West, top, watching as Caroline Owens is examined by Brian Leveson, QC, at Winchester Crown Court yesterday. The judge is Mr Justice Mantell

It is as if you can't believe it is happening."

She said Mrs West then went to the bathroom and while she was away Mr West had sexual intercourse with her for a few seconds. The Wests then went to sleep.

leaving her still undressed, bound and gagged. "I tried to get to the window but I couldn't lift it."

"In the early hours of the morning there was a knock at the door and Mr West went downstairs. I tried to make a

noise to get this person's attention and Rose held a pillow over my head. They were angry with me for trying to make a noise."

"When Fred came back he told me he would keep me in the cellar and let his black

friends use me and when he finished with me they would bury me under the paving stones of Gloucester."

"He said that there were hundreds of girls there and police wouldn't find them. I was scared, frightened to

death. I just kept thinking of my mum."

She said she was made more cups of tea and when Mrs West went to see to her children she was raped by Mr West. "I started crying: he said he was sorry. Before I had a

bath they both asked me to go back and live with them. I was amazed really: I thought this would be my chance to get away from them."

"I said I would have to go home and get my stuff and they would come back. They said

not to tell anybody." Mrs Owens said she had at least two baths to get the sticky glue from the tape out of her hair. Mr West later dropped both his wife and Mrs Owens at a laundrette. She stayed there for a moment and then "I just left. I just kept walking."

On the outskirts of Gloucester she noticed a friend's brother and accepted a lift from him. She was taken to the home of a friend where she told how she had been attacked and then went home. "I went upstairs to bed and hid under the covers."

After speaking to her mother she called the police. Mr and Mrs West were arrested and admitted charges of indecent assault and actual bodily harm. Both were fined. They were not charged with rape.

Mr West was found dead in his prison cell on last New Year's Day and his wife is on trial for ten alleged murders. The prosecution claims that many of the victims were the subjects of "appalling and depraved" sexual violence before they were killed, dismembered and buried beneath the house at Cromwell Street.

Earlier in her evidence, Mrs Owens told how she had first met Mr and Mrs West in the autumn of 1972 when they picked her up hitch-hiking from Tewkesbury. They offered her a job as nanny, which she accepted after the Wests had met her mother and father.

She told the court that during her six weeks at Cromwell Street she was paid about £4 a week. At first she had enjoyed working for the Wests. However, the couple began to argue and she decided to leave.

The trial continues.

Frederick West 'boasted of cellar torture room'

By BILL FROST AND RICHARD DOCE

ROSEMARY WEST'S husband boasted laughingly to a friend and neighbour that he planned to turn the cellar of 25 Cromwell Street into a torture chamber as the Wests gave the neighbour a guided tour of the house. Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Elizabeth Agius, who was fighting "bad" tears when she first entered the witness box, said the Wests "half told" her of their journeys from Gloucester to London and Bristol in search of teenage "virgins". Frederick West told her in the presence of his wife that they "preferred" runaways because they had nowhere to go. "He said it was easier to pick them up with Rose in the car as young girls thought it was safe."

Once ensnared, the girls would be encouraged to live with the Wests and "go on the game", she said. She described the couple as "really close", hiding nothing from each other.

Mrs Agius first met Mr West after moving into a flat in Midland Road, Gloucester, during the autumn of 1971. He invited her to meet his wife and the friendship grew. Later, however, when Mrs Agius first introduced Mr West to her husband, Mr West became angry and jealous. He told her in front of his wife that Mr Agius belonged six feet underground.

Mrs Agius baby-sat for the Wests twice soon after meeting them. "On the second occasion they came back late, the small hours of the morning," she told the court. She asked them if they had been "somewhere nice". Mr West replied: "No, we only went driving around looking for young girls."

Letters reveal the passion of couple's relationship

IN LETTERS sent to her husband while he was in prison in 1971, Rosemary West wrote that her stepdaughter Charmaine, eight, "liked to be handled rough". The girl's remains were discovered in a shallow grave at the couple's flat 23 years later.

The three letters were recovered from the flat of 25 Cromwell Street, Winchester Crown Court was told. They display the passionate nature of the couple's relationship. West, who was serving a short term at an open prison after being convicted on dishonesty offences, refers to herself as "your ever worshipping husband".

for you. The blinking tax people get on my nerves."

"Darling, about Charm. I think she likes to be handled rough. But darling, why do I have to be the one to do it? I would keep her for her sake if it wasn't for the rest of the children. You can see Charm coming out in Anna [another stepdaughter] now."

"I think love. I don't think God wants me to go to that dance. Darling, I think from now on I am going to let God guide me. It always ends up that way anyway as you know."

"Oh, love, about our son. I will see the doctor about the pill and then we will be able to decide about it when you come home. Well, love, keep happy. Longing for the 18th, your ever worshipping wife Rose."

The second letter, on prison notepaper, was dated May 14, 1971. "To my darling wife Rose...

"Darling, you forgot to write again... I have put your assisted prison visits form for the 18th and 19th and for the 15th of June. It won't be long before the 24th. So get the pill if you want it."

"I love you darling, for ever my love. Well darling, until I see you, all my love I send to you, your ever worshipping husband Fred."

The third, from Mrs West and dated May 22, 1971, has the words "from now until for ever" written at the top.

"To my dearest lover, darling I am sorry I upset you in my previous letters. I didn't mean it, no joking."

"I know you love me, darling. But it just seems queer that anyone should think so much of me..."

"We have got a lot of things to do in the next couple of years. We will do it just loving each other. Better not write too much in case I put my big foot in it ha ha!"

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Agency director accuses fashion journalists of promoting sexual exploitation

Models reject appeal to boycott magazines

By LIN JENKINS
AND LEYLA LINTON

LEADING fashion models are being urged to boycott some best-selling women's magazines in a campaign against their allegedly explicit sexual content.

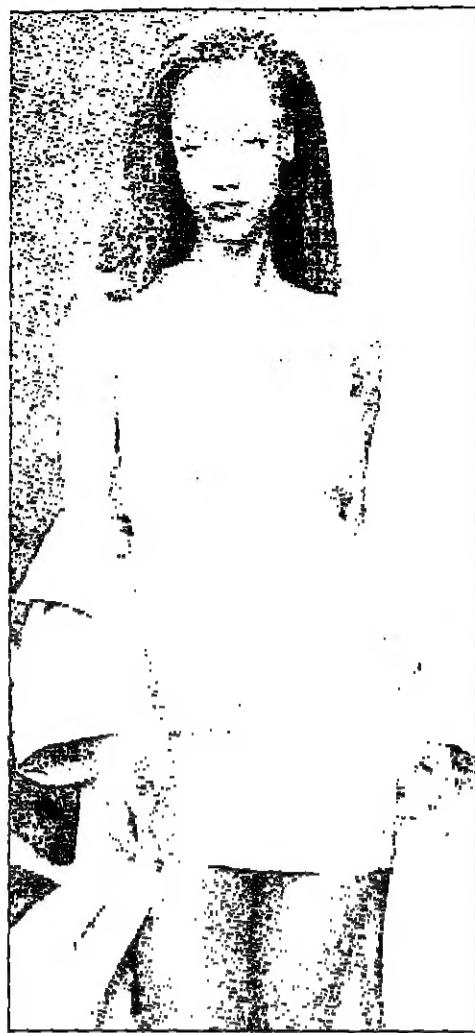
Laraine Ashton, managing director of IMG Models, has launched an attack against increasingly erotic photography and the obsession with sex in certain titles. She said they were "filth" fit only for the top shelves of news stands alongside pornographic magazines.

Miss Ashton, 49, a former model, said she would like to be able to ban her models from working for magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Company*, *Marie Claire*, and *Dazed and Confused*.

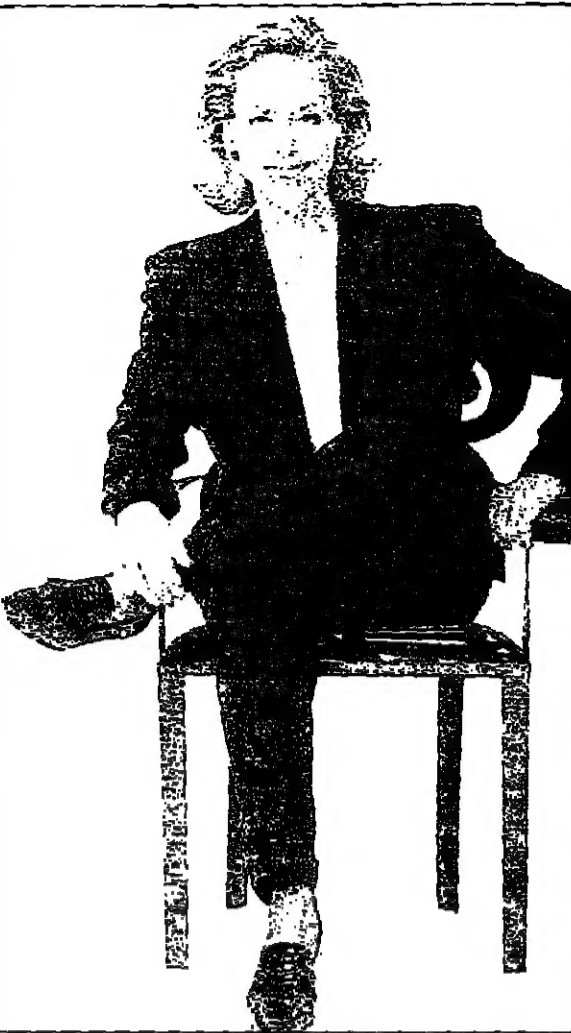
"We do not need to read 'How to have 15 orgasms' on the front cover of these magazines... It is not right to say that *Cosmo* has been doing it for so long that it is acceptable."

Her criticism was rejected by the magazines and models, who said it was unfair and untrue that anyone was being exploited. But Miss Ashton, who represents American model Lauren Hutton, Tyra Banks and the rising star Jodie Kidd, believes models are being exploited in the battle for sales. "To have a girl and boy in a state of undress simulating sex is gruesome, as is driving past a bus stop and seeing a couple licking ice cream off each other. A nude scene in the shower would be okay, but there has to be a line drawn somewhere."

She denounced *Dazed and Confused*, which features a topless girl licking a bloody



Laraine Ashton, centre, who represents models Tyra Banks, left, and Jodie Kidd, right, says the erotic content of women's magazines is filthy



ave, as "rubbish not art" and *Marie Claire* for "writing about sex aids". She said, in an interview in the *Evening Standard* yesterday, that she would want men to be involved in the debate and make their views known. Jenny Barnett, deputy edi-

tor of *Marie Claire*, said the criticism was unfair. "I think she is confusing magazines. She talks about *Marie Claire* as being one of the magazines she is disillusioned with but a lot of what she talks about is not connected to us. Our fashion pictures are not vio-

lent images or overly sexual and a story about 15 orgasms would not appear in our magazine." She said the magazine enjoyed a good relationship with IMG Models. It recently ran an interview with Lauren Hutton, often used the agen-

cy's models and would continue to do so. National Magazine Company, publishers of *Cosmopolitan* and *Company*, said neither title wished to comment on the remarks. Rankin Waddell, publisher of *Dazed and Confused*, who took over

the title in April, said he classified the magazine as an art, music and fashion magazine and not in the mainstream of women's titles. "We are surprised to be lumped with them. Our fashion stories are art projects. We are seen as a magazine

models should work for because we are at the cutting edge of fashion shots." He said the magazine tried to get away from stereotypes and not make women feel insecure about their looks by promoting a perfect type.

Carole White, managing director of *Elite Premier*, which has Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer and Cindy Crawford among models on its books, said: "I really do not understand Laraine Ashton's comments about the mainstream magazines. They have a pretty tame readership. I do not agree that the magazines are trying to exploit the girls sexually. It is just the fashion. A few years ago the look was androgynous, but now that is changed and it is much more voluptuous."

"It is the job of the model to portray the style and in general the girls enjoy the fashion now, they enjoy showing their bodies," Ms White said, however, that her company had complained to IPC and National Magazines about risqué headlines on covers.

Sarah Doukas, managing director of Storm, which represents Kate Moss, said: "I cannot see that fashion in a magazine is exploitative. The pictures in *Dazed and Confused* are a bit cutting edge, but that is up to the girls. They are able-bodied girls over the age of consent."

Amanda Lamb, 22, a model for Storm who appears in a television advertisement for Scottish Widows, has recently worked for *Dazed and Confused*. "You are given a choice. Nobody is exploited unless they want to be."

Media, page 23

Brothers go free as witness changes testimony

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE trial of two brothers accused of supplying the Ecstasy that killed a grammar school pupil collapsed yesterday.

Richard and James Myring walked free from court after the main prosecution witness in their trial suddenly came to their defence. David Lesley had been jailed for contempt of court by Judge John Slack on Monday after failing to turn up for the first day of the trial at Aylesbury Crown Court. After spending the night in the cells he went into the witness box and refused to agree with the statement he gave to police at the time, alleging that James Myring, 18, had been handing out the drug.

Mr Lesley, 23, told the jury that he had bought Ecstasy not from James Myring but from "some black guy" in the Mirage nightclub in Windsor. When asked why he had changed his story, Mr Lesley said: "I was scared. I wanted to get out of the place. They [the police] kept saying that I was the one who would be put down in the end. They said I was implicated in the charges as well."

James Myring and his brother Richard, 21, were freed after the judge directed the jury to return formal not-guilty verdicts on each of the four counts of supplying a Class A drug. Judge Slack said: "I discharge both defendants because this case has, in a word, collapsed... There has been the possibility of some intimidation and the possibility of some young people closing ranks in a misguided attempt to protect their friends and associates. There are those who will have a thoroughly understandable and justifiable feeling that justice has not been done."

The brothers had been accused of supplying Ecstasy to Andrew Diment, 17, of Maidenhead, who collapsed at the Mirage club early on September 25 last year. He died in hospital soon afterwards. He had allegedly been given the Ecstasy after a rendezvous outside a pub before going to the Mirage.

Morale of the Armed Forces 'jeopardised by homosexuals'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's decision to ban homosexuals from the Armed Forces was based on a rational judgment "born of experience", the Court of Appeal was told yesterday. The ban was justified because of the risk homosexuals and lesbians posed to the morale and effectiveness of the services, and it was not open to legal challenge. On the

second day of the hearing into the case of four former service personnel discharged for being homosexual, Stephen Richards, appearing for Michael Pimble, the Defence Secretary, dismissed the charge that the policy was absurd, irrational and "impossible to justify". Mr Richards said the difficulties of allowing homosexuals to serve in the forces had been vigorously debated across the world. In the United States, he said,

General Norman Schwarzkopf, the American joint commander of the coalition forces in the Gulf War, testified in a New York case that "the introduction of an open homosexual into a small unit immediately polarises that unit".

The former US General Colin Powell, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Gulf War, also said that "the presence of open homosexuality would have an unacceptable, detrimental and disruptive

impact on the cohesion, morale and esprit of the Armed Forces".

The appeal against dismissal has been brought by former Lieutenant-Commander Duncan Lusig-Pearn, 36, former RAF Sergeant Graeme Grady, 32, ex-RAF nurse Jeanette Smith, 28, and former Royal Navy weapons engineer John Becken, 25. A previous appeal to the High Court failed, although one of the judges, Lord Justice Simon Brown, said he thought the policy was

doomed as "the tide of history" was against the MoD.

The four former service personnel are asking the appeal judges, Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Thorpe, to rule that the High Court was wrong in law and to order the ban to be scrapped. Mr Richards said the policy had received careful and repeated examination by successive ministers

and parliamentary select committees over a number of years. He told the court that if there was evidence that problems could arise which could put military effectiveness at risk "then that is a sufficient foundation for the policy".

A view had properly been taken, he said, that the matter could be dealt with only "on a blanket basis with hard and fast rules to prevent such problems arising in the first place". The hearing continues today.

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Policewomen jailed for supplying their friends with drugs

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO policewomen who admitted possessing and supplying drugs were jailed for 12 months yesterday.

Sentencing constables Elizabeth Hartley and Liza Wilkinson, both 25, Judge Wickham, the Recorder of Liverpool, said: "Police officers are trusted by the community not to deliberately flout the law as you did, deliberately taking prohibited drugs. As police officers you knew, both of you, full well that what you were doing was illegal, was wrong in every way."

Liverpool Crown Court was told that amphetamines, cannabis and Ecstasy were found in the flat the two officers shared with John Roberts, 25, above a dental surgery in Colne, Lancashire. Both women pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis and amphetamines, possessing the two drugs with intent to supply, and supplying the two drugs. Hartley also admitted possessing Ecstasy. Wilkinson's plea

of not guilty to that charge was accepted by the Crown.

Roberts had admitted possessing and supplying Ecstasy at an earlier hearing and was sentenced yesterday to 240 hours' community service.

Hartley's former boyfriend, Andrew Howarth, 29, and Wilkinson's former boyfriend, Jason Heath, 23, both of Burnley, were jailed for three years on drugs offences at an earlier hearing. Two other men were fined for possessing cannabis.

Guy Gozem, for the prosecution, told the court: "The prosecution accepts that these three defendants were not dealing in drugs for commercial gain but they were supplying drugs to their friends. It would seem at cost price."

The majority of the drugs were found in Hartley's room, which was where visitors to the flat used to congregate. Police also found a letter on Wilkinson's bed from a Northampton girl whom the two

policewomen had met on a foreign holiday.

It read: "To Liz, please find enclosed cheque for £80. I think it's enough. £45 smoke, £10 £25 speed. I've left it blank for you to fill in who it's payable to."

Mr Gozem said that when Hartley and Wilkinson were interviewed later they admitted supplying their friends with drugs. They denied supplying anyone else.

James Gregory, for the two officers, said they were both "very new police ladies" with three years' service and no CID experience. "The disgrace and humiliation of today's appearance is enormous for both of them and brought entirely on themselves," he added.

Hartley joined Lancashire police in December 1990 and was stationed at Burnley. Wilkinson joined the force two months later and was based in the same division at nearby Padham.



Elizabeth Hartley, left, and Liza Wilkinson outside Liverpool Crown Court

Lesbian guilty of killing man who tried to grab her

By ANDREW PIERCE

A LESBIAN convict who attracted national notoriety when she beat up Myra Hindley in prison was yesterday sent back to jail for life after battering to death a neighbour she said had tried to rape her.

Josie O'Dwyer, dubbed Britain's toughest woman prisoner after taking part in a prison riot in 1973, changed her plea to guilty of murder moments before the Old Bailey jury retired to consider its verdict.

O'Dwyer, 39, who was raped and abused as a child by her father, snapped when Peter Sutherland, a friend and neighbour, lunged at her. The horror of her childhood experiences triggered an eruption of violence, the court was told. She picked up a plank and smashed it on the man's skull.

The murder took place in Mr Sutherland's home, opposite O'Dwyer's, a short walk from Holloway jail where she attacked Hindley in 1975.

O'Dwyer had claimed that she was acting in self-defence but as the jury was about to retire she leapt to her feet and

shouted: "I want to change my plea. I killed him."

The case was adjourned for 30 minutes so O'Dwyer could consult her lawyers. She was jailed for life by Judge Lowry whose summing up had to be adjourned because O'Dwyer had an epileptic fit.

During the four-week trial the jury was told that the woman, who lived alone with a Doberman called Fury, went berserk when the neighbour lunged at her breasts and said she "needed a good man".

Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, said that O'Dwyer battered the victim with such force that she could not have acted in self-defence. The impact was made when the body was face down and the injuries were to the back of the head. O'Dwyer, a heroin addict, fled to her family home in Cornwall but eventually gave herself up.

O'Dwyer had invited herself to Mr Sutherland's home early on February 10. A pathologist's report said that he had been battered at least nine times on the back of the head.

Innocent man is freed after 'rape victim' confesses

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MAN serving six years in prison for rape has had his conviction quashed by the Court of Appeal after his "victim" withdrew her allegations and confessed to misleading the court.

John Griffin, 35, said after being freed: "I was totally innocent but my life has been wrecked. I've lost my girlfriend, a good job, and at one time even my own family wanted nothing to do with me. I would never have believed this nightmare could happen to an ordinary man. It has been a terrifying and devastating experience."

Mr Griffin, a former quality control inspector from Mossley, Greater Manchester, had served three months in Strangeways when he received a letter from his so-called victim. He said: "She told me she was sorry for what she had put me through and would put matters right."

The Crown Prosecution Service confirmed yesterday that the 18-year-old woman whose allegations led to his conviction has been charged with perjury and with attempting to pervert the course of justice. She will appear before Trafford Magistrates on October 17.

Mr Griffin, who says he lost his good reputation as well as his freedom when he was convicted and sentenced, at

Manchester Crown Court earlier this year, added that his status as a sex offender attracted constant threats from other prisoners during his time in jail.

Before winning his appeal before Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Forbes and Judge Pownall, QC, in the appeal court last week, he reached a point of despair at which he considered suicide. He added: "I've not had a word of apology or a penny piece in compensation from anybody for what I've gone through. I even had to borrow money to make the trip down to London for the appeal hearing."

"I was totally innocent but my life has been wrecked. I've got arrears of over £2,000 on my house and I'm stony-broke, so I'm going to lose it."

He was arrested when police raided the home of a friend in Greater Manchester where he was working on a pirate radio station, in February last year. He protested his innocence throughout his trial. He was later transferred to Wakefield, high-security prison, then allowed out on bail in August before his case came before the appeal court. He said: "It's a wonder I ever got out at all. One report to the court, based on a 20-minute interview, concluded I was a dangerous man and should be detained for a long time."

HRT for men can benefit farmers



MEDICAL BRIEFING

IN THE future, busy farmers, red-faced and macho, may have a secret hidden beneath their trousers as they stride over their acres, or wander around the agricultural showground.

Dr Malcolm Carruthers, the Harley Street doctor who has long been preaching the value of HRT for men, has found that no group seems to need it more than agricultural workers. He attributes low levels of blood testosterone in farmers to past use of hormones in animal husbandry. Britain now forbids such hormone use but there are thought to be moves afoot to rescind the ban at a meeting in Brussels on November 27.

The announcement from the United States that a testosterone patch, Androderm, will provide HRT for men has caused widespread interest. Since early last year a male HRT plaster has been used for the treatment of selected cases, but the patch was very large and had to be applied to the scrotal skin. Wearers of these large plasters have complained that their partners were sometimes disconcerted when they saw parts of their lovers bound in sticking plaster.

Androderm is being introduced by SmithKline Beecham. Two plasters, each three inches across, small

enough not to alarm a sexual partner and easily hidden under the farmer's breeches, are applied daily and together provide five milligrams of testosterone. The new patches do not have to be worn on the scrotum, but can be applied to the back, upper arms or legs without losing any of their power. They are no more unsightly than the ones that cardiac patients use to keep their angina at bay, or the HRT patch worn by women.

Doctors emphasise that a testosterone patch is not an easy cure for impotency. Testosterone patches are useful only when blood testosterone levels are lower than normal and will not achieve very different effects than that obtained by injections, but the effect will be longer, and the dose more evenly absorbed.

Insufficient testosterone can occasionally be one of the causes of falling sexual prowess. Its lack produces a loss of sexual interest, rather than impotence. If this interest in the opposite sex can be restored, potency will sometimes be regained.

The patches will not be available in Britain until next year, when a prescription will be needed.

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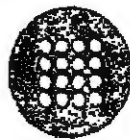
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Major urged to stand firm against the creation of a superstate and a single currency

Sceptics declare an uneasy truce in war over Europe

By NICHOLAS WOOD, ALICE THOMSON AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Euro-sceptics declared an uneasy truce yesterday in their three-year war with the Tory high command.

Despite the odd ceasefire violation, they are now concentrating their fire on the main enemy — Labour — in the belief that they have achieved many, if not all, their aims. Yesterday, Europe was the dominant issue inside the hall, where Malcolm Rifkind flouted his new-found sceptical credentials. Michael Portillo bashed Brussels as only he can, and the audience warmed to the party of the nation.

On the fringe — an increasingly dominant part of the Tory conference — the sceptics were everywhere, holding seven well-attended meetings compared with only one from the beleaguered pro-Europeans.

Norman Lamont attacked Tony Blair rather than John Major, accusing him of preparing to trade national independence for the keys to 10 Downing Street.

Sir Teddy Taylor and Teresa Gorman, two of the MPs who lost the whip for their defiance of the official line, praised the government for coming round to "our way of thinking".

As Mr Lamont put it: "We are all Euro-sceptics now." Well, not quite. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, took to the fringe to fly the tattered colours of the Heathite wing. He insisted that ministers did defend British interests in Brussels. Turning on the sceptics, he said: "Only those who want Britain to have less influence and less power in the world want to remove Britain or emasculate her in the EU."

Nor did John Redwood entirely subscribe to the new spirit of harmony, urging Mr Major from the lofty heights of Bill Cash's European Foundation meeting to "show leadership in Europe". While most of the leading sceptics stifled



their repeated demands for Mr Major to rule out a single currency in the next Parliament, Mr Redwood urged the Prime Minister to lead a pan-European crusade against a monetary union, which he claimed would "break Europe asunder". It was already setting country against country and causing "untold pain in the economies of Europe".

Even the Germans were terrified of the "monetary monster". They were now buying the Swiss franc, Europe's only strong independent currency.

France was suffering 12 per cent unemployment and was being asked to suffer more to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria. The single currency was part of a plan to "build a superstate by stealth," he said.

"It is time for Britain to show some leadership in



Tebbit attack on Euro-extremists

Europe. We must show Europe a positive way forward that overcomes the rows, frustrations and conflicts of the superstate agenda."

He added: "I would like Britain to say three more things: that monetary union on the Maastricht model is impossible, that monetary union is dangerous to Europe as a whole, that Britain would not join a monetary union."

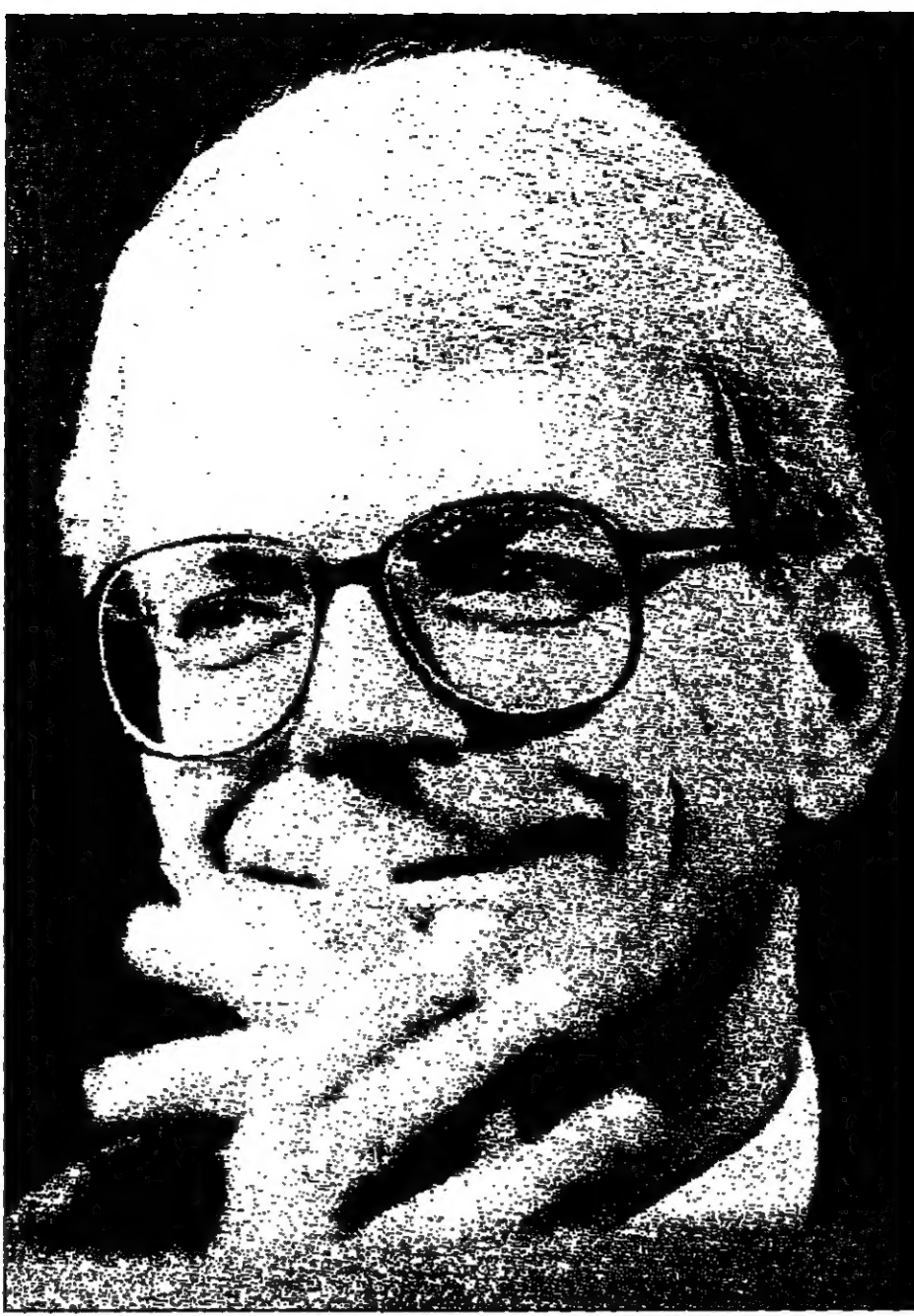
The next election, he said, would not just be a battle over who rules Britain but a battle over whether there would be a Britain left to rule. Britain's task was now to maintain the balance of power in Europe, sometimes in alliance with Germany, sometimes with France. "It is time for action, not just words. There is a world to win and a free Europe to save."

Lord Tebbit, perhaps the fiercest of all critics of Brussels, also insisted that the party was insisting around its new sceptic creed. Only a few "extremists" from the Euro-enthusiast wing were spoiling the party, he mischievously proclaimed.

In remarks that confirmed the conciliatory mood of the Euro-sceptics he applauded Mr Major's stand against a single currency and said that "events have shown that he is right". He called on Mr Major to capitalise on Labour's enthusiasm towards Europe.

He told a fringe meeting organised by the European Foundation: "As Europe is becoming so unpopular, it is being embraced by Labour. They do have a habit of mistaking things and there is an opportunity for us to be right and popular at the same time — that great ambition of all politicians."

Mr Lamont told his audience that Tony Blair, "like any opportunist", was playing a dangerous game in seeking short-term advantage to win the election at any price. "His gamble could mean that Britain pays the ultimate price so



John Major on the platform at the opening of the Tory party conference yesterday

that Tony Blair can get to No 10 — Britain's independence."

Reflecting the sceptical shift inside the Government, Mr Lamont said that the party had "put its divisions over Europe behind it". It had emerged stronger from the fierce internal debate over the future of the EU and generated greater understanding of the issues at stake.

The former Chancellor offered an olive branch to Mr Major, whom he once excoriated for offering weak leadership dictated by short-term considerations. He now applauded his fresh doubts about the practicality of a single currency expressed

after the Major summit and applauded his outright rejection of a federal Europe disclosed earlier this week.

"Only the Conservative Government stands between Britain and the creation of a European state," he declared.

At a fringe meeting organised by the Young Conservatives, Sir Teddy and Mrs Gorman aimed most of their gibes at Labour rather than the Cabinet, giving warning that unless the Tories pulled together to win the next election, Mr Blair would cause a catastrophe by selling Britain out to Europe.

Mrs Gorman, MP for Billericay, praised the Prime Minister's "new Euro-sceptic overtures" and said she was encouraged that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, seemed to have "some common sense". But they had to continue the fight for a referendum.

Sir Teddy, MP for Southend East, said: "We have been on the margin, now we are the mainstream. There has been a huge change in public feeling about Europe and now even the Government is going in the right direction."

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Leading article, page 17
Battle for virtual voters
Interface, page 9

Rifkind ready to risk isolation in free trade fight

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

MINISTERS are prepared to be unpopular and isolated in Europe in the pursuit of British interests, Malcolm Rifkind said yesterday as he responded to the sceptical mood sweeping the Tory party.

The Foreign Secretary also exalted his plan for a transatlantic free trade area embracing the European Union and North America. "Britain is an Atlantic nation as well as a European nation. We are the world's foremost champion of free trade. We are therefore perfectly placed to fight the good fight," he said.

Mr Rifkind's move prompted a warning from Sir Leon Brittan, one of Britain's two EU Commissioners and a former Cabinet minister, that the proposal would fail if it was viewed on the Continent as an alternative to joint action in Brussels. While welcoming the move, Sir Leon said that Britain had to be seen to be acting in the interests of Europe as a whole.

Mr Rifkind said: "Transatlantic free trade will be difficult to achieve. There are strong protectionist tendencies within both the EU and the US. The reform of the common agricultural policy, already essential if Europe is to enlarge to the East, will become an even greater priority. But the rewards of success will be enormous in terms of jobs, trade and prosperity."

Replying to a debate in which sceptics were to the fore but refrained from direct attacks on ministers, Mr Rifkind ruled out a slide into a European superstate while backing joint action at a European level in areas such as tackling pollution and international crime. "There is no logic in the proposition that to protect that achievement the nation-states of Europe must go down a path of ever closer union until they become the nation-state of Europe."

Matthew Jeffery, from Tonbridge, Kent, urged John Major to reject a single currency. But he warned his party against damaging splits over

FOREIGN SECRETARY

the EU. "It is time for the British lion to awake and roar 'no' to a single currency, 'no' to a Central Bank, 'no' to a common foreign and defence policy, and 'no' to any further transfer of power to Europe," he said.

Mr Rifkind promised a "cool assessment" of proposals — due at next year's intergovernmental conference — to identify the balance of national interests. "We will not accept proposals that would damage Britain's interests on the spurious grounds that, otherwise, we will lose influence, create a two-speed Europe or be left out in the cold."

Labour would be a "soft touch" in Brussels and sell out British interests. "Either Britain will have a Government that is prepared to be unpopular and occasionally isolated in defence of British interests or it will have a Government that will give in when the going gets rough."

Mr Rifkind ridiculed Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, who last week accused him of relying on long-dead Victorian statesmen for his inspiration. "I prefer Palmerston dead to Robin Cook alive," Mr Rifkind said. Mr Cook and Tony Blair had spent the Cold War as members of CND, denouncing America. "Where Palmerston would have sent a gunboat, Robin Cook would send Rainbow Warrior."

Mr Jeffery made a surprising attack on ministers who had been involved in sleaze scandals. "I hope that some members of the Government keep their belt buckles fastened and their flies zipped up — no more sleaze, no more scandal. You are supposed to represent the people, not take advantage of them."

He was applauded after urging conference to rally round Mr Major so that he could lead the Tories to victory at the next election.

Minister defends the right to hunt

By ALICE THOMSON

DOUGLAS HOGG, the Agriculture Minister, made clear yesterday that the Government would not support any backbench measures to scrap blood sports.

Seeking to ensure that the Tories retained their image as protectors of the rural community, he said shooting, hunting and angling were "a significant part of country life and sustain thousands of jobs". Intimidation and violence by animal-rights activists would not work. To cheer, he told the Tory conference that although he did not hunt, he defended the rights of those who did.

Mr Hogg also set out to woo the fishing and farming communities with promises to take court action against Spanish fishermen who trawled illegally in British waters, and to combat Brussels bureaucracy. He said that the Government would continue to work for better conditions for transporting live animals. "Our next objective is to seek European agreement for a ban on the crating system used for the rearing of veal calves."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, bowed to pressure from rural lobby groups yesterday, abandoning a proposal to give tenants of subsidised village housing the right to buy their properties. He told the Blackpool conference that a forthcoming White Paper would make clear that villages with populations under 3,000 would be excluded from the scheme.

Self-delusion is real danger for Britain

A truce has been declared between the leadership and the sceptics over Europe — and it is largely on the latter's terms. The new consensus was yesterday expressed in a polished and ambivalent way by Malcolm Rifkind, and more crudely, by Michael Portillo. The Foreign Secretary's rapturous, pre-empted speech was, however, really about reclaiming the leadership of the Right after his eclipse by John Redwood during the summer — though there was more than a touch of hubris in his final remarks about "who dares, wins" when he failed to dare in June.

The main sceptics, from Mr Redwood, via Norman Tebbit and Norman Lamont to the former whipless rebels, sent conciliatory signals at a series of fringe meetings. For the first time since the Tory infighting over Europe erupted in the early 1990s, the sceptics' target was Labour rather than their own leadership. The pro-Europeans, notably Sir Edward Heath and several MEPs, are unhappy and disliked Mr Portillo's rhetoric, but there is little they can do. Nobody is likely to follow Alan Howarth to Labour.

Yesterday's speeches said more about the Tory party than British foreign policy. The leadership's aim was to show that the sceptics' views are now being expressed from the conference platform rather than on the fringe. Hence Mr Portillo's Euro-bashing was authorised: his speech had been vetted by Downing Street and the applause was led by John Major himself. The unstated sub-theme was the isolation of Mr Redwood on the

fringe. This was meant to declare an end to the open warfare of the past three years and to emphasise instead differences with Labour. We had a foretaste yesterday of a central strand of the Tory election campaign.

The price was a bing of self-indulgent flag-waving. Competitions in patriotism are unedifying and vacuous, whether coming from Brighton or Blackpool. Mr Portillo has become an expert in rousing the conference's passions as Michael Heseltine in his heyday. There is the same exaggeration, the same creation of irrelevant bogeys of the kind which Douglas Hurd used to warn about in his most world-weary way.

Mr Portillo was talking nonsense yesterday when he spoke about the European Commission "harmonising" uniforms and cap badges on the European Court waiting to stop British soldiers fighting more than 40 hours a week. There is no prospect of any British Government agreeing to Brussels controlling our defence policy, or of that being seriously on the agenda. He blurred the distinction between foreign and defence policy, agreed by all countries, which Britain supports, and a single foreign and defence policy, which Britain opposes.

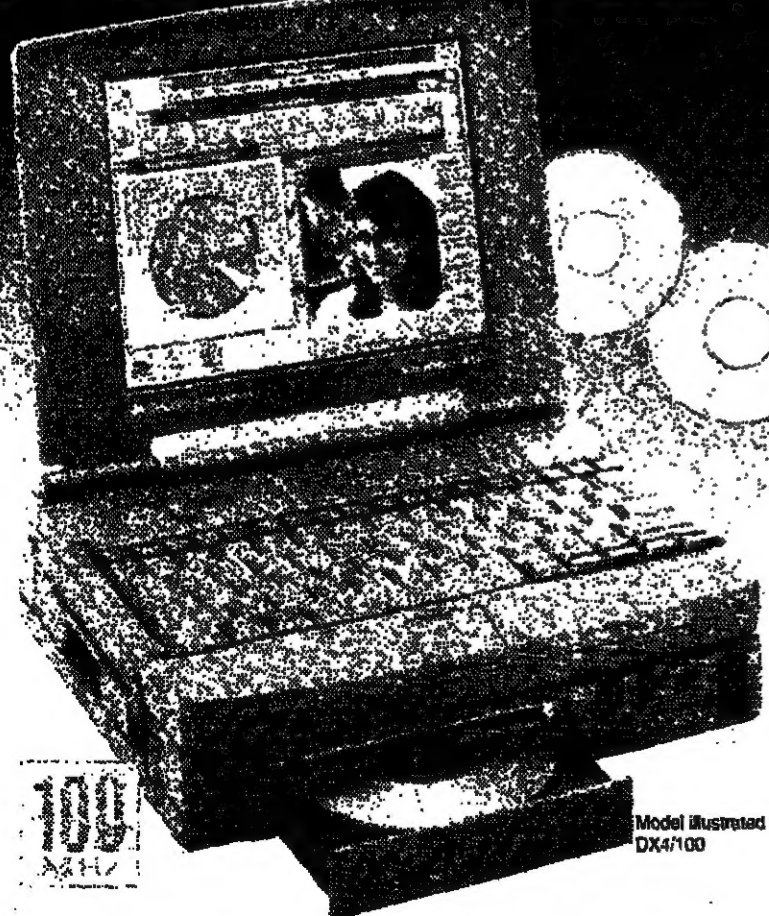
Mr Rifkind played his hand more skilfully. His speech yesterday was essentially a summary of his Chatham House lecture of September 21. His references to Palmerston

and the primacy of British interests, and the distinction with British influence, are a smokescreen for the real choices at next year's intergovernmental conference. The question is not whether there is going to be a European superstate. There is not. The question is whether the British Government has the freedom to make the negotiating compromises inevitable in the development of a European Union of 15 countries.

The real danger is of self-delusion about Britain alone, or even talk about a revived Atlantic alliance, risk disguising our interests. There is obviously a need to repair transatlantic relations — but this will be hard to achieve. Current strains are not because of any lack of commitment on the part of the Major Government, but reflect a deeper divergence of interests between America and Europe which it will be hard to ignore. This has become clear from recent talks between the EU and America on improving relations, notably on transatlantic free trade. Such a free-trade area faces opposition from France and serious reservations among certain American officials. Britain may be keen to push this initiative, but as Sir Leon Brittan said yesterday, it will only work as something designed to promote the interests of Europe as a whole, rather than as a British alternative to the EU. Yesterday's speeches did nothing to clarify the real foreign policy choices.

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TODAY'S DEBATES

Conference:
Transport (Speaker Sir George Young)
Education and employment (Gillian Shepherd)
Competitiveness and deregulation (Michael Heseltine)
Social security (Peter Lilley)
Health (Stephen Dorrell)
Local government and housing (David Curry)
On the fringe:
Selsdon group (Conservative

principles and winning ways) John Redwood
National Association of Headteachers (Education Funding) Gillian Shepherd
Conservative Medical Society (primary health care) Stephen Dorrell
Conservative Political Centre (Do we care about the arts?) Virginia Bottomley
Tory Reform Group: Ian Lang
Conservative Way Forward dinner: Michael Portillo

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Arts budget will not take lottery cash, says Waldegrave

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

MONEY from the National Lottery will not be used to replace government spending, William Waldegrave promised yesterday.

A leaked letter from Virginia Bottomley, the Arts and Heritage Secretary, to the Chief Secretary implied that the Treasury had given in to the temptation to use lottery cash to fund her department's £300 million arts programme.

But yesterday Mr. Waldegrave was forced to climb down publicly, assuring Mrs

Bottomley: "Lottery funds will not be used to replace ordinary government spending. I can make it absolutely clear now that there is no question whatsoever of breaking that pledge."

Mrs Bottomley warned Mr. Waldegrave, in the leaked letter written three weeks ago, that using the lottery to replace any arts spending "would represent the clearest possible broken promise."

The letter added: "This commitment has been repeatedly

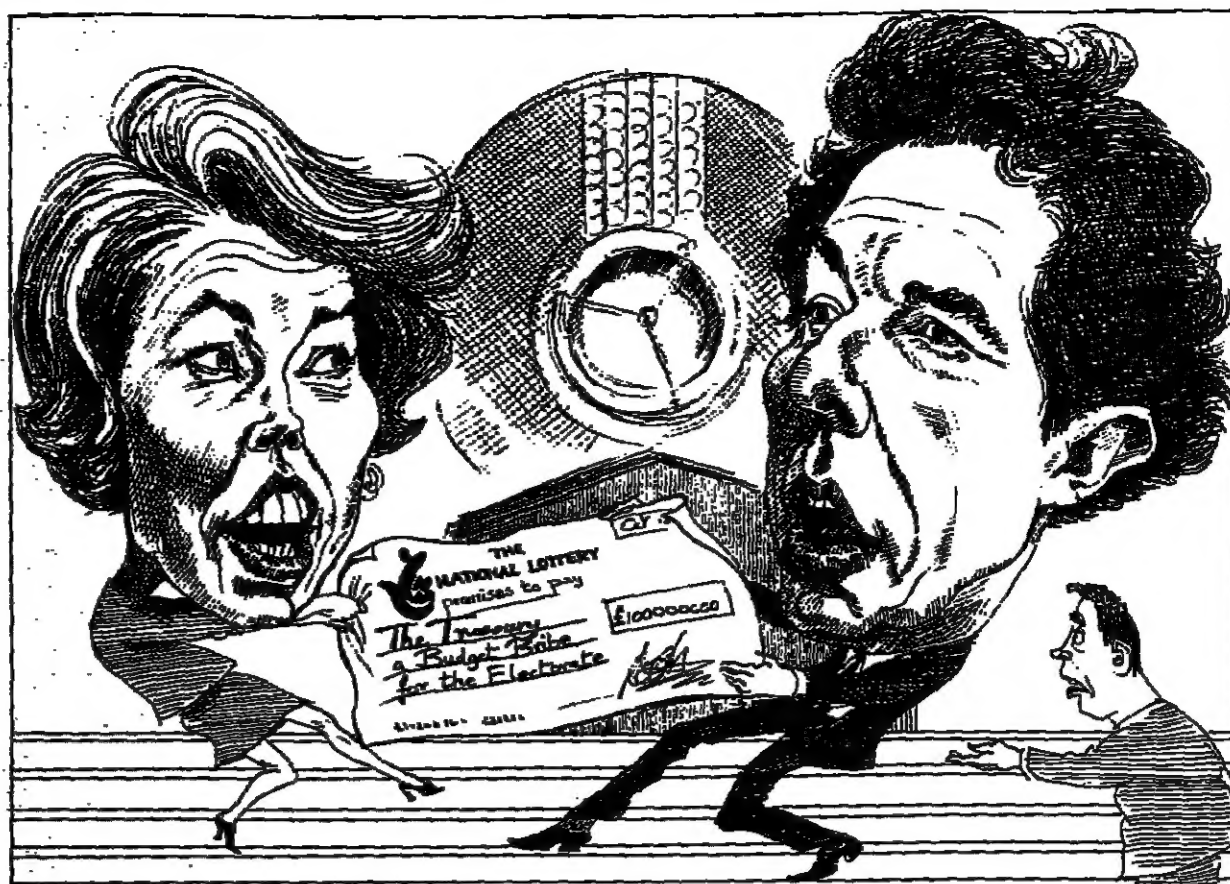
given by members of the Government from the Prime Minister downwards. The Opposition would milk the broken promises there for everything they can get."

Yesterday Mrs Bottomley refused to comment on her spending round success but admitted she was an experienced negotiator when it came to finding off departmental costs.

Later, in her conference speech, she insisted that the British National Lottery was the best in the world. She said that well over "an incredible £1 billion" has now been raised for the Good Causes Fund.

"Across the country, 1,355 good causes have already received support, from local youth groups to national flagships," she said. "This is an unbeatable way of raising extra cash to help good causes: sport and the arts, the caring, charities and heritage, and to celebrate the millennium."

She added she would be launching "a major new initiative to get more schoolchildren and young people involved in the arts — building appreciation, acquiring skill, gaining



enjoyment". Later she described the initiative as similar to the lottery's sponsorship of sport for young people.

She also told delegates: "I give you this pledge — medical charities will receive their share. That's what people want, that's what they will get."

Mrs Bottomley then turned to the BBC saying it would have to meet the same standards of taste, decency and impartiality under its new

charter as independent broadcasters. Mrs Bottomley praised Britain's media as the best in the world, "but that excellent standing abroad must never be compromised by bias or distortion at home."

She said: "It is a crucial link in the chain of democracy. But freedom must never be a licence to distort with propaganda or pollute with smut and gratuitous violence. Freedom must always go hand in hand with responsibility." She

added: "That is why I am determined to ensure that in the new charter and agreement precisely the same requirements of taste, decency and impartiality which now apply to independent broadcasters will apply equally to the BBC." She then asked the conference hall whether they had ever bought a lottery ticket and declared that 95 per cent had. "We are all winners," she said.

Conference speakers gave

the lottery their full endorsement and condemned Labour for "whinging about its success".

Alexis Elliott, from Putney, southwest London, said: "This is the Ministry of Fun not the Ministry of Glum. We don't see anything wrong in people enjoying themselves. The lottery is character-building and part of being British. Why replace Camelot with Whingeol when it is doing brilliantly as Winalot."

Portillo to boost front line with tanks

By Philip Webster and Michael Evans

DEFENCE

MICHAEL PORTILLO is to announce details next week of a new rapid reaction strike force drawn from the Army, Navy and the RAF.

The Defence Secretary told the conference that it would be capable of speedy deployment over long distances. The plan to form the joint force was first announced by Malcolm Rifkind when he was Defence Secretary in July last year as part of the Frontline First programme. Since last year, military planners have been trying to create the right combination of forces to ensure that the new unit has sufficient armour to take on a heavily armed enemy.

Mr Portillo is expected to announce details during the defence debate in the Commons on Monday that the force will be based principally on the Royal Marines, the Parachute Regiment and 24 Airmobile Brigade. There is also likely to be an armoured squadron with tanks.

Defence sources said the new rapid deployment force, which will also include RAF transport aircraft and helicopters, will not be a "stand alone" unit. Instead, the different elements of the force will be earmarked for possible deployment, although the personnel will train together and a headquarters will be set up to command it.

Mr Portillo said he was determined that the Armed Forces would be equipped to world-class standards. "When we ask our men and women to risk their lives for their country, they must have the best."

Two defence orders — for Apache attack helicopters and Tomahawk cruise missiles — underlined that resolve. On Trident, Mr Portillo pledged: "While risks remain to our security, Britain should never give up that ultimate guarantee of our freedom. A Conservative Government never will."

Fear remains over funding temptation

THE lesson of lotteries around the world is that, whatever ministers say, eventually, the proceeds are used to plug gaps in government spending. In California, lottery money has even been used to fund schools (Alexandra Preen writes).

In this country, several voluntary organisations have expressed scepticism about government assurances that lottery money will be protected from Treasury and local au-

thority raids. Stuart Etherington, of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said: "We have always understood that the lottery was new money and would be most concerned if it were used as substitution for public expenditure." The five bodies that distribute money to the arts, the country's heritage, sport, charities and the millennium celebrations have all spoken of the need for vigilance.

Major savours suite victory at night Criticism of judges urged

MICHAEL HESELTINE may have triumphed over Cabinet colleagues in securing the biggest ministerial office in Whitehall, but he has lost out in the battle for the largest bedroom in Blackpool. The Imperial Hotel's two best suites, each boasting two bedrooms, have been allocated to the Majors and the Mawhinneys.

Perhaps with one eye on ministerial tensions, the hotel and the jewellers Peter Jackson decided not to repeat the gifts made to Cabinet ministers during their last visit of silver paper knives engraved with their names. "They have

been given cut-glass crystal carafes with the Tory torch logo and their names," says Mr Jackson.

□ The image of John Redwood as being not quite of this world was further enhanced yesterday lunchtime during his performance in a fringe meeting.

Redwood meticulously selected a ham sandwich before the start. He set it before him, occasionally examining it during the meeting. Once or twice two he looked as if he was about to raise the

article to his mouth, only to think better of it. At the end, he jetisoned it untested. "I don't remember ever seeing Mr Spock eat anything either," noted a spectator.

□ To counter Tony Blair's whirl of spin doctors, Brian Mawhinney has dispatched four of his most media-friendly MPs into the press centre. The Tory chairman's answer to Peter "Bobby" Mandelson is his own sharp-witted parliamentary aide, Alan Duncan. He is aided by the cherubic Charles Hendry,

while broadcasters are offered Michael Mates. For some reason the more cerebral David Willetts is "spinning" to the regional press.

□ Edwina Currie has just handed over the final draft of her new sex-and-politics thriller. A Woman's Place to publishers. The further exploits of Tory MP and Currie lookalike Elaine Stalker are detailed in the sequel to A Parliamentary Affair. "The lawyers have cleared it for libel after going over it very carefully," smiles Currie enigmatically.

SHEILA GUNN

By Arthur Leathley

BRIAN MAWHINNEY, the Conservative Party chairman, urged the public to criticise judges and magistrates directly if they disagreed strongly with court decisions.

He acknowledged public fury over court decisions decried as either too lenient on offenders or too harsh on people defending themselves against attack.

"People are outraged — and so am I — when someone who is only trying to defend himself or his property winds up being prosecuted, while the attacker gets off with a

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

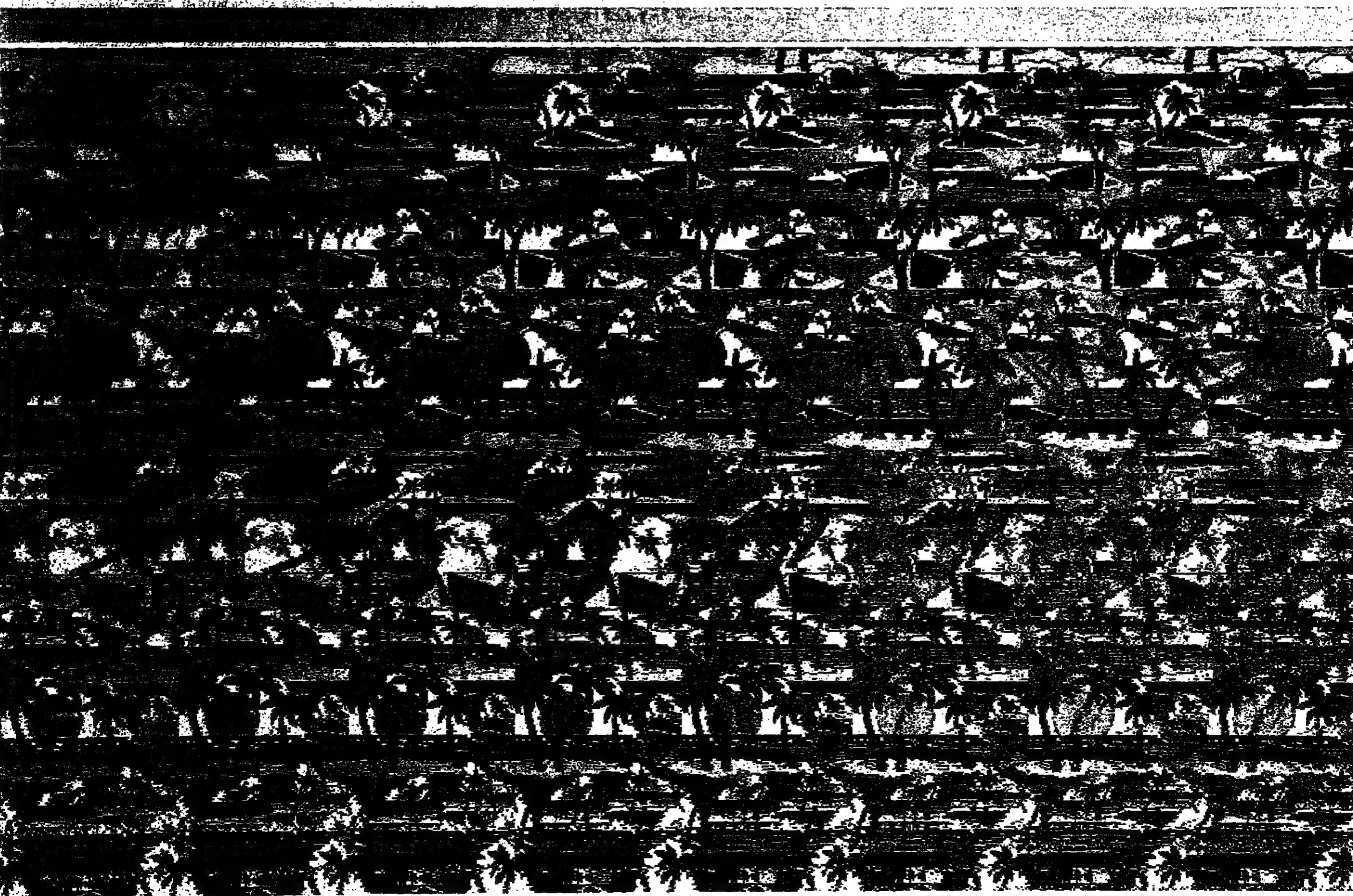
slapped wrist," he said. In his first conference speech as chairman, Dr Mawhinney said the party would press for victims to be protected and offenders to be punished severely.

He made clear that court judgments should not be immune from public comment: "Magistrates and judges are good people, but they do not act in a vacuum. So praise them when you agree with them and let them know if you are dissatisfied. The expres-

sion of the public's view on sentencing does have an effect."

A speech which received rapturous acclaim was boosted by the use of television effects in which unflattering images of Tony Blair and John Prescott were screened across the platform backdrop.

Dr Mawhinney put cutting taxes as the Government's central aim. "It always has been and will be — so watch this space! This party chairman confirms again that our instinct, our goal is to reduce tax," but he stressed: "We will always be a prudent Government."



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Union's rules on manning go by the board for five nights of Puccini at the Albert Hall

Impresario unveils cut-price opera to attract the masses

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN IMPRESARIO is to stage "a people's opera" with top tickets cheaper than those at the Royal Opera House. Raymond Gubbay will be presenting Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Albert Hall, keeping the cost down by ignoring union rules on manning.

He accused the Royal Opera House of elitism yesterday and criticised as antiquated trade union rules that cause tens of thousands of pounds to be "wasted". Mr Gubbay, who presented *Turandot* at Wembley Arena in 1991 with the Royal Opera, said that his plans to produce Verdi's *La traviata* with that company had been thwarted by the unions. Stage hands who moved scenery "in front of the audience" would have wanted about £30,000 — as well as the payment for work backstage.

La Bohème will be staged next February, in association with the Albert Hall. Mr Gubbay said: "Restrictive

practices within our national companies lead to an acceleration of costs."

He is staging five performances for an audience of 20,000. A top-price ticket will cost £37 against well over £100 at the Royal Opera House. About 524 seats will be available at £13.50 and 1,500 at £19.50, compared with an average of 160 seats under £22 at the Covent Garden.

The more expensive Covent Garden seats are at higher prices than those at British opera houses in general. Seats in the stalls at the London Coliseum to see the English National Opera are available at £35 and in the balcony at £8. Mr Gubbay pointed out that he did not receive millions in government subsidy. His prices, he said, were comparable to West End shows.

Mr Gubbay added that working with the Royal Opera had shown him the extent to which "accepted practices are

not cost-effective". He said that if a prop was needed from a storeroom, under union rules a member of staff could not fetch it alone but must be accompanied by another member of staff.

He also questioned the necessity of keeping specialist staff permanently occupied: full-time armourers, haters, and jewellers. "With so many people available on a freelance basis, I wonder how much of an indulgence that is."

He said that presenting *La Bohème* in the round, rather than in a proscenium theatre, would allow the whole audience to be involved. "The object is to entice and encourage the thousands who enjoy music from opera, but who never go to opera houses."

The Albert Hall, which has a populist image through events including sport and the Last Night of the Proms, seemed right, he said: "It is a place that people identify with,

bringing popular opera to a popular venue."

He also noted that the production would celebrate the centenary of the first performance at La Scala, Milan. The production, directed by Michail Hum, will have two casts, including Katerina Kudriav-

chenko and Susan Bullock as Mimì, and José Azocar and Arthur Davies as Rodolfo.

A spokeswoman for the Royal Opera House said last night that prices were affected by capacity. The Albert Hall had 5,000 seats compared with just over 2,000 at Covent

Garden. "The headlines were screaming about Pavarotti seats at £267, but there were 869 seats at under £50. And they weren't all dull seats."

She added: "We're not like a one-off promoter. We're running a full-time theatre. It can be far more expensive to use

part-time staff." She said that Mr Gubbay was out of date in his criticism of union regulations as the house had negotiated a new "very efficient, cost-effective agreement".

No one was available for comment at the technicians' union Bectu yesterday.



Raymond Gubbay intends to fill the Albert Hall with his presentation of *La Bohème* next February

Incentives lure back business 'refugees' to Ulster

By JAMES LANDALE

MINISTERS launched an international campaign yesterday to woo back business people and young entrepreneurs who fled the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Incentives worth up to £75,000 will be offered to any of the 200,000 emigrants who return to set up a small business. For each new job created, they will receive £4,000. The "Make It Back Home" initiative, pioneered by the Local Enterprise and Development Unit, the Province's small business agency, was launched yesterday by Baroness Denton of Wakefield, the junior Northern Ireland Minister, at FMS Belfast in London.

Most of the people who left for England, North America and the Far East were educated to secondary level and 26 per cent of them went to university. "That means that Northern Ireland lost a very large number of people who would normally have made a huge contribution to business and community life," she said. "We want them back."

During the last year some 500 people indicated their intention to return during a series of the unit's seminars and business clinics across the United States. About 70 business people have already done so, creating some 300 jobs.

Among those returning is John Matchett, an engineer who left for Canada in 1974. "Life was scary. There was atrocity after atrocity." Six years ago he left the mayhem and returned. He now employs more than 60 people at his light engineering company at Carrickfergus, Co Antrim.

"My hunch paid off. I knew the killings had to stop. Both factions were looking for an excuse to end the conflict. I think there is now a great opportunity for expatriates with a business flair."

James Brown, 36, was one of thousands who fled the Province with a top-class university education. Aged 21, he went to America in 1974. At the beginning of last year, with a grant from the unit, he set up a company in Banbridge, Co Down, making golf clubs and hopes to double his workforce of six in the next few months.

Lady Denton added: "The opportunities are there. They really can Make It Back Home — in all respects."



Baroness Denton launched initiative

New drug gives hope to tumour patients

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AN EXPERIMENTAL drug has shown remarkable results in the treatment of aggressive brain tumours. Two years after 15 patients were treated with the drug, 12 were still alive. Normally the expected survival rate would be less than one in five.

Although the numbers in the trial were small, the results are striking. Scotia, the manufacturer of EF13, has already made a product licence application after trials against pancreatic cancer showed encouraging results.

The latest study was carried out at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in Pune, India. The team used EF13 — chemically, gamma-linolenic acid — to treat patients after brain tumours called gliomas had been removed surgically. The brain cavity was infused daily for ten days with the drug. Brain scans showed reductions in the size of tumours and normal brain anatomy in all cases. The treatment was followed by radiotherapy.

EF13 is one of a new class of drugs being tested by Scotia that have aroused scepticism from much of the pharmaceutical world. They are based on naturally occurring fatty acids which, unlike traditional cancer drugs, are not strongly toxic. The theory is that EF13 stimulates the production of chemically active agents in tumour cells but not in normal ones. Thus they have a selective effect and can kill tumour cells while not affecting healthy ones.

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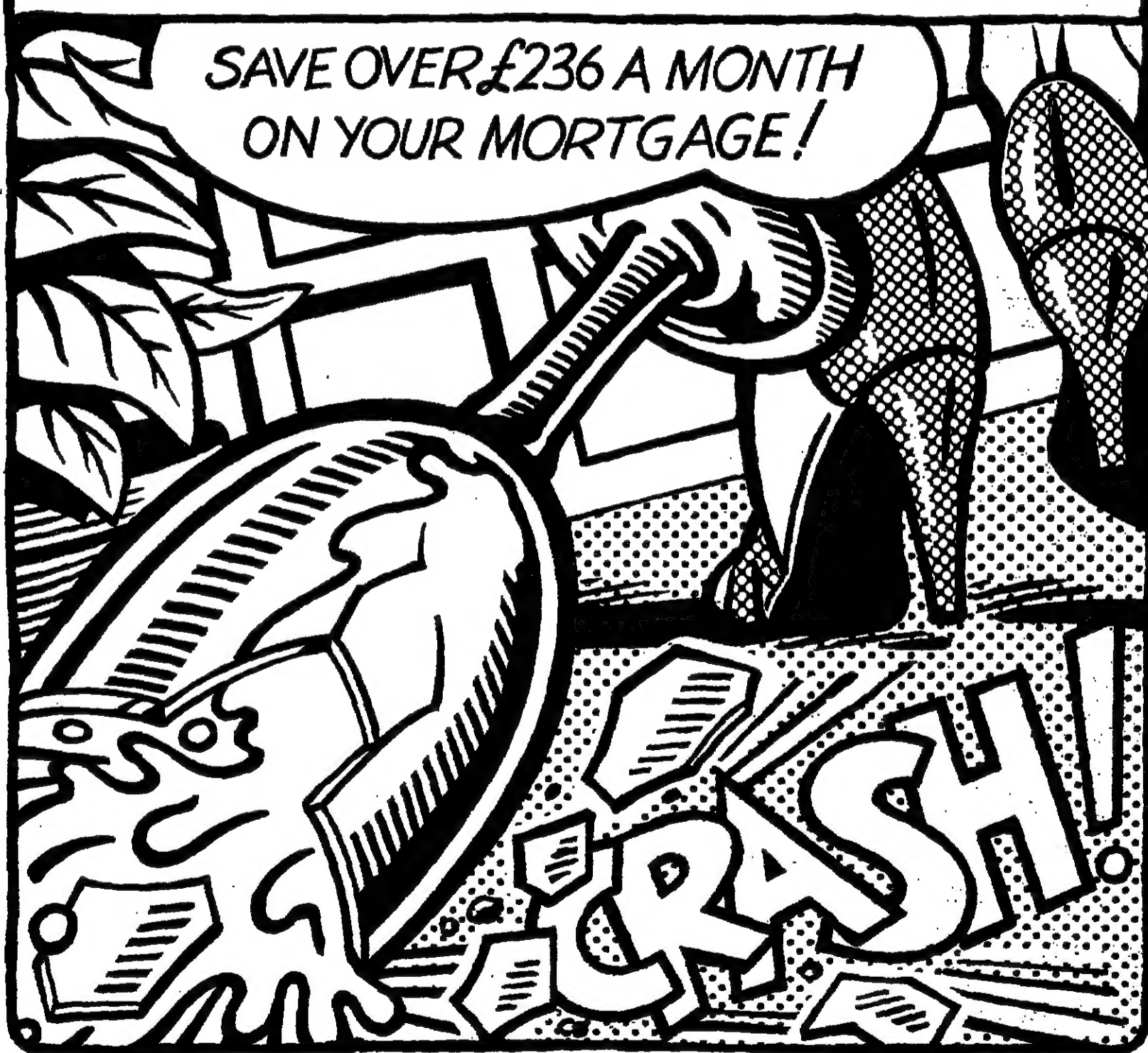
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Axe hangs over interplanetary craft while human horde seeks encounter close to home

British demand for 25% cut threatens research in space

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

SCORES of space missions, including one to Mercury and another to investigate the mystery of gravity waves, are at risk because Britain wants to make deep cuts in Europe's space science budget.

The British move for a 25 per cent cut in the European Space Agency's science budget will be unveiled next week at a meeting of the European Space Agency in Toulouse and has dismayed scientists in member nations. It is feared that a sharp cut could set back the agency's growing lead over the United States and Russia in areas of space astronomy and physics.

Roger Bonnet, head of the agency's space science programme, said yesterday in London: "Up till now Britain has given excellent support to Europe's space science budget and, although it is challenged by Germany and France, it remains the biggest source of ideas in this area in Europe. It is very hard to understand why the UK is now suddenly taking such a harsh line."

Britain wants the science programme reduced from about 357 million by about 90 million over the next three years. Britain contributes about 14 per cent to the budget and ministers say savings can come in areas such as the

building of spacecraft. Professor Bonnet met Professor Robert May, the Government's science adviser, to outline the impact of Britain's move yesterday. Professor Bonnet said he would have little choice but to resign if the British cut was agreed. "I would have failed scientists across Europe."

However, Jim Thomas, finance director of the British National Space Centre, part of the Department of Trade and Industry, said: "A saving of 25 per cent can and should be made without there being any effect on the science content."

The cuts were partly needed to offset a fall in the pound's value against the ecu, which had increased the cost of Britain's contribution.

David Southwood, Professor of Space and Atmospheric Physics at Imperial College in London, said funding difficulties at the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council were to blame, with space becoming the target. Professor Southwood said: "The British claim that a 25 per cent saving can be achieved without an impact on the space programme has no basis in reality."

There was a mythology that the agency was grossly inefficient. He said that some Euro-

sceptics in the Government were attacking the agency for political reasons, "but the truth is that ESA's programmes are delivered on budget". Few organisations could claim that.

He added that the British position at Toulouse could also harm the nation's space industry. Space agency analysts claim Britain gets back £103 for every £1 it puts into the space science programme because British space companies and researchers are some of the most skilled in Europe. Britain receives a high number of orders to build spacecraft and equipment.

On November 8 the agency's Infrared Space Observatory will blast off from French Guyana. The telescope, one of whose instruments is from Queen Mary and Westfield College in London, will search for cold objects in the universe such as stars forming from gas clouds. But its follow-up craft, the Far Infrared Space Observatory planned for the turn of the century, could now be scrapped.

The cut would mean cancellations or delays in the Horizon 2000-plus programme in which three "cornerstone missions" have been planned. One is to investigate the strange magnetic fields and ice fields of Mercury, a planet which has been visited only once, by an American spacecraft which merely flew by and took a photograph.

Another mission, to launch six satellites seven million miles from Earth, aims to find Einstein's gravity waves which, it is believed, were formed at the beginning of time along with light.

The push by Britain is the latest funding crisis in space. Ariane 5, the rocket to be launched next year, will have no British flag on the side because Britain has failed to contribute. Ian Taylor, the Space Minister, recently admitted that this may have been a mistake.



Yesterday's message from earth, aimed at the Government, was clear enough

Watchers call for access to extra-terrestrial files

By Joe Joseph

THE absence of pulsating lights or whirling silver discs over Westminster yesterday did nothing to deter UFO watchers protesting outside a deserted House of Commons to demand the release of secret files on visits to Britain by aliens and UFOs.

John Holman, UK co-ordinator of Operation Right to Know, which organised the protest, said: "They don't have to say 'We are being invaded

by extra terrestrials', but if they know British airspace is being penetrated by objects they should tell us."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence denied that Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State, was hiding from the public a fat catalogue of sightings and contacts with extra-terrestrial beings. He said there was nothing to reveal: "There is no question of us attempting to cover up any incidents, nor in trying to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public."

Mr Holman, an industrial product designer from Ripon, North Yorkshire, who claims to have videotaped a UFO in Wiltshire in 1990, did not believe him. "What we are after are the military reports and pilot reports which have been collected over 50 years."

Mr Holman, 46, said reports of a UFO landing close to an American base near Woodbridge, Suffolk, 15 years ago were withheld by the Government, but surfaced in

America under the Freedom of Information Act. He also cited a Belgian military report from pilots who, in 1990, reported their jet had been "buzzed" by a UFO whose acceleration from 150 knots to 990 knots in seconds was beyond the endurance of human beings. "The Belgians made this report public. Why can't our Government release their reports?" Mr Holman asked.

Steve Clementson, from Hertfordshire, was picking up signals from alien craft outside Parliament with a home-made UFO detector he calls "Gizmo". It runs on six small radio batteries and crackled with white noise. "The sounds seem to be the symbolic representation of chaos."

Giles Dexter said that because extra-terrestrials wanted to establish open contact with governments "they would like an embassy. You don't just turn up on a planet unannounced. You go through the proper channels."

UFO hotspot draws crowds but aliens fail to materialise

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE mystery of why a small Scottish town has become the UFO capital of the world remained puzzlingly elusive at a packed meeting on Monday night. If some extra-terrestrial beings among the audience of 600 knew the answer, they were keeping quiet about it — as well as hiding in the down-to-earth attire of anoraks and woolly sweaters favoured by those lesser humans present.

Bonnybridge, in central Scotland, has laid claim to about 2,000 sightings of unexplained objects in the past three years and about one third of the population of the town claims to have experienced phenomena ranging from abductions by aliens to UFOs and strange lights.

The UFOs have put Bonnybridge on planet Earth's map, as well as whatever navigational aids aliens might call upon. Japanese film crews have turned up. American science fiction magazines are offering week-long holidays in the town and UFO enthusiasts from all over Britain have visited to see for themselves.

Billy Buchanan, an independent Falkirk district councillor and a man much ridiculed for his insistence that the phenomenon be taken seriously, admitted that no definite answer had emerged from Monday's meeting, which he arranged — and which led to a few walkouts by Scots angry at the poor value it gave for £2 a head.

"Some people came with preconceived ideas and, to be honest, it was not a UFO evening," Mr Buchanan said. "But it gave people a chance to hear what the speakers had to say."

Mr Buchanan, 52, has been in the town since 1970, when he moved there from Glasgow. He has lived in the town since 1970, when he moved there from Glasgow. He has lived in the town since 1970, when he moved there from Glasgow.

Ken MacFarlane, from Cheshire, said it was not only the place but the people of Bonnybridge who were in some way special. He urged them not to be afraid of either ridicule or aliens.

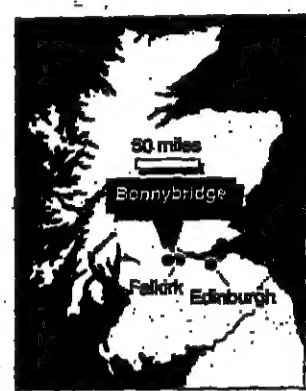
Phyllis Schlemmer, a 66-year-old American who claims to have been abducted by

aliens twice, told the meeting the area had a "very strong energy field".

She said: "This is the first time I've ever been here, but there's definitely something special going on. I can understand why this is a UFO hotspot."

Miss Schlemmer's claim to be in contact with "the Council of Nine", a shadowy group of superbeings who watch over the Earth, stretched the credibility of some of the audience. Her claim that Earth was merely the prototype planet on which other plans have been based also raised eyebrows.

Gregory Campopiano, 22, from Falkirk, said: "It is nothing like what I expected. I thought they would be trying to explain the sightings in Bonnybridge. Billy Buchanan has got three speakers in who



are trying to baffle us with jargon."

Mr Buchanan was unrepentant. "The debate did get a bit lively and some people did walk out, but all I was doing was trying to give people a chance to hear what the speakers had to say. We have a big conference in Bonnybridge on January 6, when there will be people living in from all over the world."

In his meantime, Mr Buchanan has written to John Major to ask for a government inquiry into the situation. He is not optimistic. The Ministry of Defence told him there was nothing happening in Bonnybridge which affected national security.

Ultimately Mr Buchanan would like to boldly go where no councillor has been before and develop a "new concept in tourism". He has visions of a giant observatory and a virtual reality hall giving people experiences of UFOs. It would cater for all earthly needs, however, with a restaurant and a creche.



Mercury, with the sun behind it, has odd magnetic fields but a mission to investigate them is threatened

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police find tourists' killer dead

An off-duty policeman who shot dead two British tourists in Tangier last Friday was found dead after apparently committing suicide. Moroccan police who had been hunting him said.

Inspector Mustapha Hamouche, 39, had suspected his wife of committing adultery with Westerners and killed her before the attack at the hotel. Three other tourists, including a British schoolgirl, were wounded. A British woman shot in the back was flown home on Sunday.

Pottery cache

Most of the 42 pottery items stolen from the Bernard Leach museum in St Ives, Cornwall, were recovered in a raid on premises in east London. Two men were charged with conspiracy to handle the Leach material and a painting. A third man is being sought.

Silver lining

An RAF rescue helicopter was scrambled when a fell walker called police to say he had seen a Hercules crash in a cloud of smoke near Glossop, Derbyshire. The false alarm was caused by the aircraft passing over a hill behind which a farmer was burning heather.

Titanic purchase

A poster advertising the maiden voyage of the *Titanic* in 1912 was sold for £7,800 at Christie's, South Kensington. Chris Lowe, 46, of Swindon, a collector who bought the 40in by 25in poster, designed by Montague Black, said: "Only four were made."

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Unions' display of might in public-sector stoppage adds to pressure on Prime Minister under siege

Strike by 5m workers paralyses France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A ONE-DAY strike by five million civil servants and public-sector workers paralysed much of France yesterday in the most aggressive display of union might here for at least a decade.

With buses, railways and underground trains operating only minimal services, millions found themselves toiling to and from work while mass demonstrations in more than 80 cities helped to compound some of the worst traffic jams in the country's history.

The strike, to protest against a wage freeze planned by the Government of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, brought

together the five principal federations of the French union movement and two public-sector unions in a rare show of unity. Two out of every three French schools and most post offices closed, while hospital services were drastically scaled down.

France's high-speed train service operated at a quarter of its usual capacity and air travel was seriously disrupted, particularly in southern France. Three out of every ten Eurostar trains between London and Paris were cancelled, and French telephone and electricity services were affected.

The Paris Métro was reduced to a skeleton service, leaving some passengers waiting up to an hour for a train. Many commuters stayed at home, rather than face the horrors of attempting to travel to work on what the French press called "Black Tuesday".

In Paris, more than 25,000 strikers marched in glorious sunshine from the Bastille to Saint-Augustin, singing, beating drums and waving banners in a political demonstration that often seemed more like a carnival parade. Union organisers said between 50,000 and 100,000 people had taken part. "Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh," sang representatives of the French police union, "the police are in the street". In other Paris streets, police decided handed out "free" tickets, listing their grievances.

Some were rather less happy to find themselves on the pavement. Yves Sartou left his home two hours earlier than usual and joined millions of other Parisians to walk to work. "I haven't done this for



Tens of thousands of marchers take part in a rally through Paris yesterday that often seemed more like a carnival parade

ten years," the portly M Sartou observed grumpily, as he rested, perspiring heavily, in the Tuileries gardens.

For long-distance commuters the situation was even worse, with traffic stretching ten miles along motorways into the city. Government ministers, who have chauffeurs and tend to live in the heart of Paris, were perhaps the least affected by the disruption. Many, however, were careful to be out of town when the strike got under way.

About 57 per cent of French voters supported or sympathised with the strike, according to a poll published in *Le Parisien* newspaper yesterday. Only 26 per cent opposed the strikers.

Economic instability, fears that France will not meet the requirements for European monetary union, a fragile franc, tax hikes, terrorist attacks, the dispute over nuclear testing and a burgeoning corruption scandal that threatens to unseat the Prime Minister,

have lent the strike a far wider significance, reflecting nothing less than "a collective state of disappointment", according to *Le Monde*.

For President Chirac, yesterday's scenes must have carried a heavy sense of déjà vu, no doubt recalling the last time all the French unions joined in protest at frozen wages — in 1986, when M Chirac was Prime Minister.

British travellers delayed

THOUSANDS of British visitors to France were delayed and frustrated yesterday as they were caught up in the strike (Harvey Elliott writes).

Air services were badly affected with delays averaging more than an hour. Many flights had to be cancelled after air traffic controllers and airport fire crews joined the day of protest. British Airways cancelled seven of its 34 flights to various French airports from Britain.

Five months ago, Parisians crowded into the streets to celebrate M Chirac's election; yesterday, those same boulevards were packed with demonstrators shouting their defiance.

Before his election M Chirac promised both to reduce taxes and to slash the deficit, but instead taxes have already been raised twice and radical fiscal reform has been postponed until next year.

Financial analysts remain sceptical about the Prime Minister's economic reforms, and his ability to stand up to the unions.

Jean Puech, the Civil Service Minister, has announced he is prepared to negotiate public-sector pay for 1997-8 this year, but he is standing by the planned freeze for next year. "The door is always open for a genuine social dialogue," he said yesterday.

The Opposition has been quick to capitalise on the Government's tribulations, and Michel Rocard, the former Socialist Prime Minister, yesterday accused M Juppé of "brutal provocation" of the public-sector workers.

M Juppé's political survival depends on his handling of this strike — if that is, the Paris prosecutor who is considering whether to launch a formal corruption investigation into the his lease of a city-owned flat, does not scupper him first.

His appeal was reinforced by support for France from Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister. Monetary union cannot happen without France, Herr Waigel said in an interview, adding that he was confident the French economy would qualify to join a single currency.

President Herzog's speech seemed aimed as much at his own countrymen as at Euro-sceptical governments such as Britain's. "Those German citizens who are afraid of losing their strong mark in monetary union have a point, but they must realise that its strength is not solely in the hands of the Bundesbank," he said.

Herr Herzog laid out a federalist programme as the best hope for peace and prosperity in a continent, which, he said, enjoyed a greater sense of community than politicians realised. "Our Anglo-Saxon Europeans need not be afraid of it," he said, adding that the current bout of monetary turmoil which has seen the French franc come under pres-

Herzog raises fears of return to 1930s misery

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A TIDE of nationalism and depression could drive Europe back to the miseries of the 1930s if it abandons economic and monetary union, President Herzog of Germany said yesterday.

In a speech to the European Parliament, Herr Herzog lamented the doubts and bickering over the EMU project in recent weeks. The only hope for a stable future lay with EMU, he said: ending it would lead to "trade wars, protectionism, the renationalisation of economic policy and deflation if not depression," he said. "That would be a throw-back to the 1930s."

A forebode of that fate could be found in the trade war between Japan and the United States, he added. "Please ask people in your constituencies whether they want us to play with fire in this way," he begged MEPs.

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sure was proof that political union was essential for monetary union.

Herr Waigel, who was in Washington for an International Monetary Fund meeting, gave a vote of confidence in the French Government.

"The French are making great efforts to fulfil on time the Maastricht criteria. I believe in their resolve and I am also confident that they will reach this goal ... I believe they will do it," he said.

France had made great strides over the past years in developing growth and anti-inflationary policies, and he welcomed Paris's attempt to consolidate the budget, concluding: "A monetary union in Europe must include France and Germany."

It is not clear whether Herr Waigel's comments will be wholeheartedly welcomed in Paris; French officials share the irritation of other EU states that Germany should be awarding points to, or reprimanding, future members of the monetary union.

But the remarks, German officials said, were made in a "friendly supportive" spirit and should be seen in the context of a much broader campaign to soothe the troubled relationship.

Karl Lamers, the European strategist of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, this week launched a new parliamentary working group which will provide another channel of communication with France.

The move drew an irritated response from his party colleagues because the initiative suggested that the German Chancellor's personal ties with President Chirac are no longer adequate.

The Christian Democrat move was matched yesterday by the Social Democrats, who have set up a group aimed at reducing recent Franco-German tension.

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US race tension rises as black Muslim's call summons the disaffected



Farrakhan: a chance to promote himself

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON is bracing itself for the most important black power march in decades amid fears that the event could ignite further racial tension in the wake of the O.J. Simpson trial and thrust its extremist organiser to the head of a rudderless black community.

Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader, has described next week's Million Man March as a day of prayer, protest and atonement for black men and has said that its goal is to unite the black community behind a banner of responsibility.

In reality, the rally is little more than an opportunity for Mr Farrakhan to promote himself as a mainstream leader for black Americans disenchanted with Democrats and Republicans. The former New York calypso singer turned charismatic preacher has denied that his objective involves attaining political power or an attempt to convert thousands to the Muslim faith.

However, he agreed that many blacks were dissatisfied with a political establishment perceived to have undermined many of the gains of the civil rights movement. "We feel the Democratic Party is playing games with its loyal black constituents," said Mr Farrakhan, who is widely viewed as one of the most divisive men in America, a fiery orator whose extremist rhetoric lays the blame for slavery, AIDS and other ills in the black community at the doors of whites, Jews and the Government. Recent FBI tapes have re-ignited allegations that Malcolm X was shot in Harlem at the instigation of Mr Farrakhan — claims he has consistently denied.

The march, expected to attract more than 200,000 black men from all parts of America, has alarmed many in the Clinton Administration and on Capitol Hill who are concerned about Mr Farrakhan's dominant role in such a mainstream event. The White House has refused to allow blacks on its staff time off to join the rally, although Mr Farrakhan is urging all blacks to leave work for the day in Washington, a city he has described as "the capital of our oppression".

The event has even attracted sceptics such as the Rev Al Sharpton and the Rev Jesse Jackson, both of whom have spoken out against Mr Farrakhan. Rosa Parks, a hero of the civil rights movement after she launched the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, 40 years ago, will make a speech as will Maya Angelou, the poet. The American Muslim Council, which previously had denounced the Nation of Islam as a cult, is sending 5,000 members.

The Farrakhan call, which has been rejected by General Colin Powell and Johnnie Cochran, the leading lawyer in the O.J. Simpson defence team, has otherwise been successful, partly as a result of increasing fears that Congress, the states and the courts are working against policies that once opened doors to the black population.

Israel's mass jail release thwarted by PLO protest

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ATTEMPTS by Israel to release nearly 1,000 male Palestinian prisoners yesterday as a goodwill gesture degenerated into chaos as the Palestine Liberation Organisation said that hundreds would refuse to leave and claimed that others were not being handed over according to last month's Washington treaty.

In a separate development, ten right-wing Israeli reserve officers said that they were willing to go to jail rather than do their annual compulsory military duty in protest against the accord extending Palestinian self-rule to much of the occupied West Bank. Many prisoners stayed in

jail in solidarity with 20 Palestinian women who are refusing to leave until Israel honours the terms of last month's treaty and releases all Arab female prisoners. The Israeli Government has refused to permit the release of four women convicted of murder.

The confusion and ill-feeling overshadowed what should have been a landmark day in the peace process, combining the mass prisoner release with a ceremony at Salbit to mark the Israeli withdrawal of the first of its administrative offices in the occupied West Bank outside the PLO-controlled enclave of Jericho. Colonel David Barel, the deputy

chief of the occupying administration of the West Bank, said: "I wish the Palestinians luck and success with their new responsibility. I hope there will not be any need to enter this town again." Salbit is in a zone where Israel keeps overall responsibility for security.

Ahmad Fares, of the Palestinian Civil Affairs Ministry, said: "It's a historic day for Salbit and the people here." Containers from the Israeli administration building and a nearby army post were earlier loaded onto lorries. Israeli troops also moved out of the village and after the last

soldier left, a villager smashed a pot on the ground in a traditional gesture to ensure against his return.

"Today Salbit, tomorrow Jerusalem," read a banner strung from the balcony of the municipality.

The joyful mood of the handover ceremony was in contrast to the chaotic prisoner release about which Ahmed Tibi, a senior adviser to Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, commented: "I believe this is getting off on the wrong foot."

As an Arab Israeli citizen, Mr Tibi petitioned the Supreme Court to permit the release of the four convicted women murderers whose freedom appeared the key to further progress.

Referring to 700 of the 1,200 jailed Palestinians who are deemed to be "security" or "political" prisoners rather than those convicted of criminal offences, Hisham Abdel Radek, a leading PLO official, said: "Without a solution to the issue of the Palestinian women prisoners, none of the prisoners will agree to be released."

During the day, about 100 of the ordinary convicts walked to freedom, but the releases were stopped by the Israeli authorities after the PLO said that the Washington accord was being breached because they were not being handed over to the 24-member Palestinian Authority. The Palestinians insisted that they should have the opportunity of reviewing the cases and either freeing the men, or putting them into PLO-run prisons.

The Israeli Government reacted angrily to the delays and the threatened demonstrations on behalf of the four Palestinian women, two of whom were refused pardons by President Weizman, and two by the military commander in the occupied West Bank.

"I think it would not be a wise step by the Palestinian Authority to make an issue of it... and they understand this well," Moshe Shahal, the Police Minister, said.



Workers search for victims in the ruins of the Costa Real Hotel in Manzanillo

Mexico earthquake kills 33

Manzanillo: Rescue workers swarmed over the wreckage of a seafront hotel yesterday in a frantic hunt for survivors from Mexico's worst earthquake in a decade.

State government officials had confirmed 66 dead night but lowered the number yesterday to 33 after making further checks. "We made a mistake," Alma-Santibanez, a civil defence spokeswoman in the western state of Jalisco

said. "In the same list we mixed up confirmed and unconfirmed deaths. It's clear that we caused a lot of confusion."

More than 100 people were injured and 1,000 left homeless by the quake, which was centred off the coast about 330 miles west of Mexico City and struck on Monday morning.

President Zedillo declared a state of emergency in Jalisco and Colima state and ordered

troops and civil defence workers into the disaster area.

One of the biggest dramas was in this yachting resort, where the multi-storey Costa Real Hotel collapsed. Rescue workers pulled 12 bodies from the rubble and sought to free up to 20 employees and 20 tourists believed to be still trapped. Had it not been for slack out-of-season demand, casualties would have been much higher. (Reuters)

Caribbean hit by new hurricane

Miami: Tropical Storm Roxanne strengthened into a full-fledged hurricane early yesterday as it swirled through the Caribbean headed north toward the Cayman Islands and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

The National Hurricane Centre said yesterday that Roxanne had been officially classified as a hurricane, the tenth of a busy Caribbean storm season.

"Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 75 mph," a spokesman for the centre said, adding that the storm was expected to continue gaining strength.

The Mexican Government has issued a hurricane warning for areas on the Yucatan peninsula, and Cuba declared a hurricane alert, preparing for torrential rains.

Roxanne was born on Sunday, just hours after hurricane centre officials declared Tropical Storm Pablo dead. (Reuters)

Carey appeal for Sudan refugees

Khartoum: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said he was saddened by the living conditions of Sudanese from the mainly Christian and animist south, who are displaced in camps outside Khartoum as a result of the civil war. "These people are in dire need of assistance," the Archbishop said at the end of his three-day visit, indicating that he would launch an appeal for international aid. (Reuters)

Militant leader killed at hideout

Karachi: Four detained militants of the Mohajir National Movement were among 15 killed yesterday in Pakistan's commercial capital. Among the dead was Rahim Farooqi, a well-known Mohajir leader. Police had taken him and the three militants to a house identified as a Mohajir hideout where Mohajir gunmen, hiding inside opened fire, the Government said. There were no police casualties. (Reuters)

Timor killing sparks unrest

Dili: Clashes broke out in the East Timorese capital yesterday after a civil servant was killed, leading to a stand-off between security forces in the territory held by Indonesia and angry East Timorese. The man's killers were reportedly from a pro-government area. Residents said youths hunted down Indonesian migrants who control business. (Reuters)

Pavarotti to stay together

Rome: Luciano Pavarotti said he will not seek a separation from his wife Anna, even though there were matrimonial problems (John Phillips writes). The tenor, in an interview with *Corriere della Sera*, did not deny reports that he was having an affair with his secretary.

Militia allies open 'house of horrors' prison to Red Cross

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A FRONT-PAGE photograph in the Palestinian paper *Al-Quds* yesterday of a Red Cross team entering the notorious Khiam prison in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon symbolised the shattering of secrecy that has surrounded the jail since it was opened ten years ago.

Until Monday, no humanitarian organisation had been allowed behind the walls of the former French-mandate fortress overlooking the Christian village of Khiam. The prison has become a byword for allegations of torture and mistreatment; none of the 200 Arab inmates has been tried or sentenced, and some have been there since it opened.

Run by Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army, the jail's reputation spread far and wide in the Arab world. One Beirut organisation reported that 14 prisoners had died since 1985 as a result of mistreatment.

As with the massacres of Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra and Chatila in 1982, Khiam was held up as an

example of a place where Israel permitted its Lebanese allies to exceed all the norms of warfare. In January, Rafik Hariri, Lebanon's Prime Minister, accused Israel of running its jails like Nazis.

Israel has consistently denied direct involvement in the running of the jail whose western walls still bear the shell marks of the allied attack on the Vichy French in Lebanon in 1941. But the Israelis are known to finance, train and clothe the 2,500-member SLA. Reports circulated of blindfolded prisoners hearing Hebrew spoken while under interrogation. Inmates are mainly suspected members of Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian Islamic guerrilla movement.

Diplomats attribute Israel's campaign to improve its standing in the Arab world and to promote an eventual peace with Lebanon and Syria as the main cause for the decision to break the secrecy surrounding Khiam. The seven Red Cross delegates, including a doctor, will spend a week interviewing prisoners

and prepare a report for the Lebanese Government.

Fed by a local propaganda industry with the help of sympathetic Western journalists, stories about the regime inside Khiam had been made all the more horrific because they could not be checked, except in the occasional visit by Israel-based reporters, which were themselves propaganda exercises.

In the new climate of peace in the Middle East, it became clear to Israel and by definition, to the SLA, that the secrecy of Khiam was beginning to backfire. The first sign of change came in February, when the SLA released 75 inmates as a "humanitarian gesture" and started to allow family visits.

UN officials, who have long been critical of the methods used at Khiam — whose inmates were once considered as pawns who could be swapped for the Western hostages held in Beirut — believe that the new policy is a gesture towards rapprochement in the region.

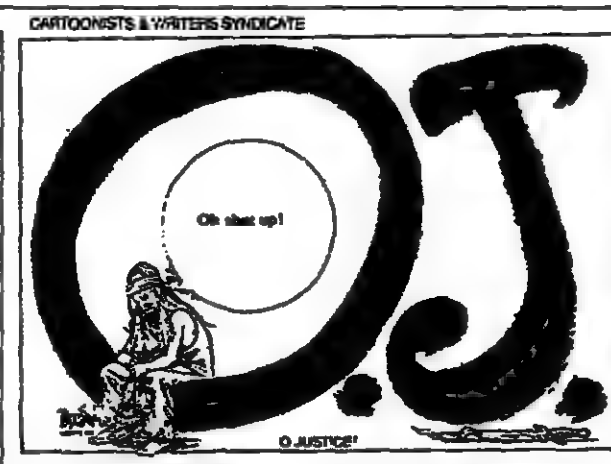
Don King on trial for fraud

BY QUENTIN LETTS

DON KING, the American boxing promoter, went on trial yesterday in New York, accused of defrauding London insurers. There was a marked absence of his customary bombast before a bout as Mr King remained silent before the start of the federal trial.

He is accused of concocting expensive claims for two 1991 fights that were never held. The scratched bouts, which were to have featured boxers Mike Tyson and Julio Cesar Chavez, had been insured through Lloyd's, on the Chavez fight. Mr King received an insurance payment of \$350,000 (£222,000) for training expenses.

Mr King, 63, faces a fine of more than \$2 million and a possible five years in jail if convicted of nine charges. One of Mr King's former accountants, Joseph Maffia, is to testify for the prosecution.



The Simpson saga as seen by The Sun in Vancouver

Free speech for OJ

Los Angeles: Rejected by the lucrative pay-per-view television industry, O.J. Simpson will give his first full-length interview tonight since his acquittal and will earn nothing from it (Giles Whinnell writes).

Mr Simpson will be seen live on NBC, for which he used to work as an American football commentator, in a rare advert-free broadcast. However the network faces

protests from women's groups and the families of the murder victims, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Mr Simpson had hoped to earn up to \$10 million (£6.3 million) from his first interview since the trial by requiring television viewers to pay in advance. However, last week America's two leading pay-per-view operators distanced themselves from the idea.

Clinton promises to capture saboteurs

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON said he was "profoundly outraged" at the sabotage of a passenger train in the Arizona desert on Monday and vowed yesterday to do all in his power to capture the self-styled "Sons of Gestapo" who claimed responsibility.

"We will get to the bottom of this. We will punish those responsible. We will not tolerate acts of cowardice like this in the United States," the President declared as the FBI launched a huge hunt for the saboteurs and Amtrak tightened security throughout the 24,000-mile railway network.

The Justice Department set up a special hotline for informants, and FBI agents swarmed over the remote site, 60 miles southwest of Phoenix, where the train, the Miami-Los Angeles Sunset Limited, was derailed early on Tuesday. Three carriages plunged 30ft into a dried-up river bed,

a sleeping car abundant was killed, and seven of the scores of injured passengers remained in a critical condition yesterday.

Two notes were found at the site immediately after the crash. One was printed on computer paper, held down by a rock, and was examined by several passengers before the authorities retrieved it and sent it to Washington for analysis.

The passengers said it called against the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the federal law enforcement agencies vilified by right-wing militia groups for their 1983 assault on the Branch Davidians' compound in Waco, Texas, during which more than 80 cultists died.

The notes were signed "Sons of Gestapo", but searches of recent Internet traffic and newspaper databases found no record of such a group.

American feminists deplore antics of sexist British bee

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN political correctness campaigners have a new heroine: a female British bee. A scientific journal has presented her as a classic animal victim of sexual harassment, with the female northern elephant seal, red deer and dung fly.

The research has a dismal message for feminists: forced copulation, harassment and intimidation are a natural state of affairs. Women's rights campaigners are enraged, accusing scientists of "political conservatism".

haviour Society, has seized on the plight of the female *Anthophora plumipes*, a bee found in Britain, to illustrate all that happens in the male-oriented insect kingdom. She is constantly pestered for sex by her male partner, a small but energetic specimen. At the same time she must find the family home, look after the young and go out to work.

Unlike the honey bee, the long-tongued *Anthophora plumipes* is a solitary creature. It does not live in a hive with a queen and well-disciplined drones. Independence has its price. When the female *Anthophora plumipes* feels the urge to reproduce, she goes in search of a male, but then finds him unwilling to do anything

but mate. This is the single-mother of the bee world and an exhausting life it can be, fighting off male advances sometimes as often as once every three seconds and receiving little in the way of proper companionship or assistance. The female bee is perhaps surpassed in her burdens only by the female dung fly, whose fate it is often to be drowned in slurry by her over-zealous mate.

An *Animal Behaviour* report, entitled "Sexual Coercion in Animal Societies", cites research from various scientists. Female elephant seals are often crushed to death by their fat males. Male sea otters inflict terrible scars on the females of the species and female red deer some-

times die in agony after being served by inexperienced young males. Ganging-up is the style of the male captive long-tailed macaque monkey. "Rates of aggression by males towards females," the journal reports, "increase substantially when a second male is present." It adds: "To minimise the costs of harassment, females should mate rapidly with males that harass them... Conversely, the first males to locate females entering breeding condition are commonly young or subordinate. Females mating with these males may suffer direct costs arising from the male's inexperience."

American feminists are horrified. Merle Hoffman, publisher of *On the*

Issues, a feminist magazine, hit back yesterday. "I would call this another example of the political conservatism of behaviourists and geneticists," Mr Hoffman said. "They spend millions of research dollars in an attempt to prove the old party line that biology is destiny and that boys will be boys."

The *Animal Behaviour* research is the work of the British biologists Graham Stone of Oxford University, and Geoff Parker of Liverpool University with Professor Timothy Chutton-Brock of Cambridge. The *New York Times* quoted Dr Parker's description of his findings as being "all very squalid and depressing, but there we are."

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Bosnia
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Nobel winner
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The trouble with t

Radio sets and vacuum cleaners are switched on as utilities are restored to Sarajevo homes

Bosnia ceasefire on course as gas supplies return

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

A CEASEFIRE in Bosnia was set to take effect at 12.01am today after gas and electricity supplies began to trickle into Sarajevo yesterday, 24 hours later than scheduled. Bosnian Government officials said they were satisfied that the conditions had been met.

The much-heralded truce, which depended on the restoration of supplies to the battered Bosnian capital, comes after days of heavy fighting. Nato airstrikes and a fresh wave of "ethnic cleansing" across Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosnian government forces, backed by Croatian artillery, encircled Mrkonjic Grad, the last remaining town held by Bosnian Serbs on a road that would link the Muslim enclave of Bihać to the rest of government-controlled territory. The Serbs threatened to shell the Croatian capital, Zagreb, if the allied attack was not called off. In Serb-held areas in western Bosnia, paramilitary units under the command of Zeljko Raznatovic, a former bank robber better known as Arkan, continued to expel remaining Muslim and Croat civilians in an attempt to create an ethnically pure "entity" before the ceasefire comes into effect.

Arkan and his men, who are accused of some of the worst wartime atrocities including murder and rape, have reportedly rounded up between 8,000 and 9,000 Muslims. Many are reported to be held in camps where they are deprived of food, and raped or murdered. Officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said they were preparing for the arrival of thousands of refugees today and tomorrow.

Refugees, who have survived the brutal deportations, say men are usually separated from their families and taken away. At the Bistracun refugee centre, near Zenica, where about 1,000 of the refugees were taken yesterday, old women and children looked stunned and clung to their meagre possessions. Some told harrowing tales of robbery and beatings at the hands of Arkan's troops.

But their ordeal continued even after arriving in govern-

ment-controlled territory. Officials from the UNHCR said the displaced people, after surviving a "hellish nightmare", were being resettled by the Bosnian Government in Donji Vakuf and Bosanski Petrovac, frontline towns that have been recently captured.

Despite the upsurge in fighting and the latest wave of "ethnic cleansing" all sides have said that they would respect the ceasefire once it comes into force. The agreement also contains several conditions that have to be met once the guns fall silent, including promises to respect the rights of minorities on Bosnian Serb territory. The

Muslim tells of torture in Serb camp

The Hague: Muslim victims of alleged Serb brutality gave harrowing accounts of routine beatings, torture and deaths at a prison camp in Bosnia-Herzegovina at hearings held by the United Nations war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia yesterday.

A factory worker told how he saw two Muslims die after they were tortured by a Bosnian Serb prison camp commander who described himself as "God". Ibro Osmunovic, 30, described hearing the screams of the men who were taken from the detention room at the Susica camp and beaten at the orders of Dragan Nikolic. He said Asim Zildic was unable to walk or speak on his return. "He just kept sobbing. He died after about 15 or 20 minutes."

The next morning Mr Nikolic approached Dusan Handak, who had been unable to sleep after his beatings, to question him. "Dusmo responded, 'Let me see the sun once more'. Dusmo started walking towards the door and after several metres he fell down and died," Mr Osmunovic said. (Reuters)

ceasefire, which had been due to take effect yesterday, was postponed because Russia failed to begin pumping gas into Sarajevo by the deadline. Frantic work has been going on to repair Sarajevo's electricity supply lines. At the same time, members of opposing armies have been working side by side to remove mines, even as their comrades elsewhere in Bosnia continue to fight.

The Russian gas company that supplies Bosnia-Herzegovina were demanding assurances that the gas pipelines around the capital were in adequate condition after three and a half years of war. By yesterday morning, several hours after the deadline expired, a gas flow reached the outskirts of the city. But government officials said it could be days before the necessary repairs were completed to enable people to use gas in their homes.

As news of the resumption of electricity supplies was announced, traditional Bosnian folk music blared from the windows of Hajduk Veljko's Street. But it did not drown out the roar of vacuum cleaners and television sets blaring from the rows of flats lining the old town street where people have had only several hours of electricity a week until now.

"When I get home, I'm going to do the laundry, make coffee, do the cooking and heat water for a bath," Raza Dizdarevic, a 49-year-old shopkeeper, declared.

However, in the adjoining Hriste Boteva Street, anxious residents walked around their homes flipping switches to no avail. Electricity had not reached the silent street. "I feel cheated," said Lejla Hasegic, 21. "Every few minutes I try the lights, but nothing." Officials at the UN, involved in restoring utilities to the capital, said the electricity networks in Sarajevo were still in need of repair and that it would be days before many residents could expect regular supplies. Even after the repairs are made, the supply will be limited and residents will risk losing their privileges if they exceeded their quota.



Electricians repair power lines for Sarajevo's trams as a much-heralded truce promises a return to normality

Scars cloud memory of a child survivor

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN VELIKA KLADUSA

MY ARRIVAL brought with it had memories and the little girl stopped smiling. Her eyes widened and she stared at me in silence.

"Yes, she remembers everything," her grandmother said quietly. I had last seen Dina 14 months ago, minutes after she had been shot in the head and chest in crossfire between Bosnian government troops and those of Fikret Abdic, the rebel Muslim leader, in Velika Kladusa, western Bosnia.

The little girl was then aged three. She had been travelling in a car with her mother, another woman and two other children, trying to flee the fighting. The car was hit by machinegun fire and all inside were wounded. We got Dina to a French United

Nations base. A doctor examined her there and said: "She could die at any moment." Her mother, Irma, herself wounded in the head and hand, had wept over her, imploring her not to sleep.

"Take me home, mummy," Dina cried, lapsing in and out of consciousness before being taken to a French hospital in Bihać. The plight of Bihać grew worse as the war with the Serbs raged on, until the Croat victory in August.

Dina did not die. Although in a coma for six weeks, she survived. I found her, living at her grandmother's house in Velika Kladusa. The blonde child walked, although unsteadily, talked and could see. She still has 15 bullet fragments in her head and relapses into

temporary paralysis when the atmospheric pressure changes.

Irma, who works in the fields near by, seemed detached from the events of last year. There is no way to improve her daughter's condition until the war ends and no practical way for them to leave Bosnia until it does. "Even if I had the means for us to leave, I think I would stay until the end," she said. "We have survived this much and are meant to see it through."

"Dina is so strong and has managed to live in spite of everything. One day I will manage somehow to get the metal out of her head, but at the moment the doctors tell me the operation will cost 20,000 marks." She spread her dirty hands towards me. "We have to stay."

Akashi replaced as UN's envoy

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations announced a high-level reshuffle yesterday that will remove Yasushi Akashi from the top job in the Balkans and place a former Iraqi ambassador in charge of peacekeepers around the world.

Mr Akashi, the UN special representative in the former Yugoslavia, was replaced because his antagonistic relationship with the United States threatened to disrupt a smooth handover in Bosnia-Herzegovina from UN peacekeepers to the planned Nato-led peace implementation force.

The Japanese envoy, who made his name as the head of the peacekeeping effort in Cambodia, ran foul of Washington because of his repeated opposition to the use of air power in Bosnia. Under American pressure, he had already been cut out of the chain of command for UN-requested airstrikes before last month's bombing campaign against the Bosnian Serbs.

Mr Akashi will be replaced on November 1 by Kofi Annan, the Ghanaian head of the UN peacekeeping department, who is liked by Washington because of his flexible approach to UN peacekeeping missions. The American-educated Mr Annan is almost alone in the UN leadership in arguing that recent Nato bombing has helped rather than hindered the UN operation in Bosnia.

UN officials said Mr Annan would remain in the Balkans for only a few months, during which peacekeepers would be replaced by the Nato-led force intended to implement a Bosnian peace settlement. His high-profile post as head of UN peacekeeping operations around the world will be filled temporarily by Ismael Kittani, a veteran Iraqi diplomat who is currently a special adviser to the UN Secretary-General.

Although of Kurdish origin, Mr Kittani represented Iraq at the UN during the gas attacks on the Kurds by the Iraqi Government in the late 1980s. He was chief-of-staff to Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary-General, in the 1970s. Mr Kittani is also a close personal friend of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the present Secretary-General.

Nobel winner undermined the old economic theories

FROM REUTER IN STOCKHOLM

ROBERT LUCAS, winner of this year's Nobel Prize for Economics, has altered radically the way in which governments around the world formulate economic policy, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said yesterday.

Professor Lucas, 53, of the University of Chicago, won the prize for "having transformed macroeconomic analysis and deepened our understanding of economic policy," the Swedish academy said.

"The great thing about Lucas is that his theories have really meant a lot for economic policy as well as for economic theory," Carl-Olof Jacobsson, secretary-general of the academy, said. "He is on the borderline between behaviourism and economics. His work has to do with people's expectations, and expectations are what people get from information."

Lars Werin, prize committee chairman, said: "Lucas undermined most economic theory

published up to the 1970s. He has also been the most influential economist since then." Professor Lucas's most important contribution to economic theory has been his hypothesis of rational expectations, the academy said.

"You could not rely on the old thinking of how things are correlated since expectations have been shown to mean so much," Mr Jacobsson said. One example of that was wage policy. Forecasts of inflation and the supply of labour have a direct bearing on the level of wage settlements, which are in turn a key factor affecting inflation.

Professor Lucas also dispelled the prevailing theory in the 1940s and 1950s that unemployment could be controlled by expansionary monetary policy, which in turn would lead to inflation. "Experience during the 1970s and 1980s has shown that higher inflation does not appear to bring about a permanent increase in employment."

Tower of Pisa rocked by tremor

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A STRONG tremor rocked the Ligurian and Tuscan coastline yesterday. Thousands of people ran into the streets and the leaning Tower of Pisa trembled, but then stabilised.

The shock was registered at 4.7 on the Richter scale at 8.04am. Scientists said its epicentre was close to the naval port of La Spezia. The tremor also was felt in Emilia Romagna and Lombardy.

Instruments in the bell tower at Pisa registered the tremor strongly, alarming scientists who recently suspended attempts to right its famous lean after they appeared to be counter-productive. However, the scientists said the ripple did not appear to have harmed the stability of the monument.

Italy has suffered a series of major earthquakes this century, most recently near Naples in 1980, when thousands were killed and tens of thousands left homeless.

Moi renews onslaught on Leakey

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya attacked critics of his Government yesterday, accusing the West of double standards and warning Richard Leakey, the opposition politician, that he faces prosecution for sedition.

During a rambling speech in Nairobi to mark the 17th anniversary of his accession to power, the President launched a withering tirade against Mr Leakey, the former conservationist, and Robert Shaw, the white Kenyan who this year founded Safina, an opposition party, with black lawyers. Waving his ceremonial stick, Mr Moi told an audience of

foreign diplomats and Kenyan dignitaries: "They are campaigning for people to stop aid which helps ordinary people. They are telling people not to give Kenya money. I can prosecute them for sedition."

Mr Moi's outburst was the latest in a long list of verbal assaults on Mr Leakey and Safina, which the President has refused to register and whose officials have been harassed and beaten up. However, the timing and ferocity of the remarks are significant. After the Auditor-General's report disclosed last week that £158,000 had disappeared

from the Treasury, Safina wrote to the International Monetary Fund, blaming government corruption for Kenya's flagging economy and urging the IMF to keep up its pressure on the regime.

Many donor governments, including Britain's, have withheld promised funds and the IMF announced last month a freeze on new aid deals. Mr Moi has not helped his cause by saying he will arrest any members of an international tribunal who travel to Kenya to investigate genocide in Rwanda. Many of the suspects are believed to live in Kenya.



Moi: accused the West of double standards

Japanese defence spending jumps ahead

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

JAPAN'S defence budget is now leaping ahead of Britain and other European countries and may be even bigger than the Japanese Government is admitting.

Although the 1995 budget appeared to rise by less than 1 per cent, the figures produced by the Japanese Government were denominated in yen. In dollars, the budget rose by one fifth, from \$46 billion

(£29.1 billion) in 1994 to \$56 billion this year, according to the latest annual Military Balance, drawn up by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

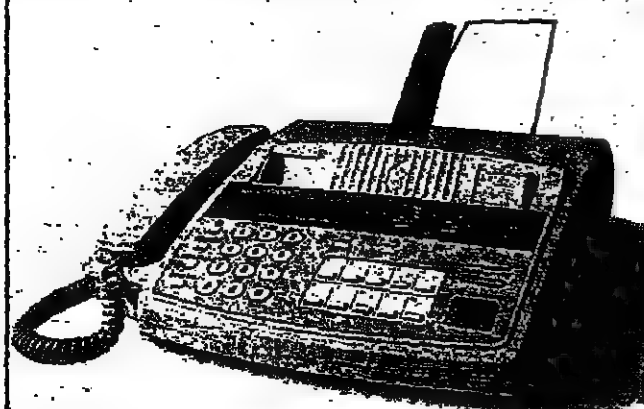
The IISS report said: "With the possible exception of Russia, Japan now spends appreciably more on defence than any other country apart from the United States."

The surprising increase in defence spending in Japan is part of an overall

rise in military expenditure in the region of east Asia and Australasia, compared to extensive cuts across Europe.

IISS said the Japanese Government claimed defence spending amounted to no more than 1 per cent of gross domestic product. But some analysts believed the defence budget excluded items that would be classified as military expenditure under Nato definitions, including pensions for the army and dual-use research and development in aerospace.

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Next spring's wardrobe will be simplicity itself — a shirt and trousers — but the line is sleek, not sloppy

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS MOORE



White-hot separates and an uncluttered silhouette set the pace for spring/summer 1996: from left, EMPORIO ARMANI, MAXMARA and GUCCI



Milan goes crazy for sharp and shocking citrus shades — orange, lime and lemon: from left, MAXMARA, Istante and GIANNI VERSACE

Together in separates

Having travelled to Milan to discover the future of fashion, or at least what the Italian designers will have in their stores for women to wear next spring, I knew something was afoot when I observed my female counterparts as they took their seats at the first shows.

Among the smart little tweed dresses, camel coats and

court shoes were a handful of pristine white T-shirts, flatter-than-flat ballet pumps, sensible sweaters. Comfortable, easy clothes which need little thought or effort. Clothes to put on and forget about.

Which is exactly what Giorgio Armani and the rest have to offer this season. This does not mean the mood is sloppy. Silhouettes are crisp and clean-cut and fabrics are

plush, yet it is the determined way in which designers have stripped down the look to the bare bones which makes it appear quite so elementary.

When a designer such as Jil Sander makes her fundamental statement of the season a shirt and a pair of trousers, then fashion may look as if it has lost the plot altogether — but Sander is a clever designer. She takes the ordinary and

makes it glorious simply by cutting the wide-legged men's style trousers in shimmering silk, and the shirt in silk and satin.

Shirts were everywhere on the Milan catwalks. They appeared in every shape, size and fabric. Practically every designer did a version of a tiny, capped-sleeve shirt, often worn with baggy soft jersey trousers, or a hipster skirt (either thigh-high or just hitting the knee). Then there were the shirts which became shirtwaister dresses, either buttoning to the waist or through to the hem, and cinched with a tie belt.

A long, floor-skimming shirt was popular, as was a military-style jacket which was little more than a shirt itself.

In his secondary Emporio line, Giorgio Armani turned a little see-through shirt into a knee-length dress cut in ultra-fine silk, while another with a full-length gathered ballgown skirt of layer upon layer of chiffon made a modern evening alternative. Armani pursued his passion for pared-down elegance. Best of all were his fine knits — little pullovers and tie-back dresses.

For the most part designers used colour sparingly. Everyone used orange, yellow and lime green, but anchored these shocking shades to a solid base of black and white.

Gianni Versace opened his mainline collection with a matt black jersey trouser suit worn with a matching cropped ribbed sweater, and then a few outfits later showed the same outfit again in white. Not surprisingly it also came in orange, yellow and lime green.

Where Max Mara offered predominantly milky white garments, Dolce & Gabbana sent out models dressed for the most part in jet black.

The Max Mara silhouette is uncluttered and futuristic. Dolce & Gabbana were inspired by the neo-realist films of the director Antonioni.

Tom Ford's collection for Gucci continued his Sixties and Seventies hippy trip this season, ending up in Marrakesh via Palm Beach. He layered black and white kaftans and jellabas over cigarette-thin hipster trousers or hotpants. Shirts were tighter than tight, while lace tunics with bell-sleeves featured

draw string necklines. Paint splash and op-art prints added colour but looked perhaps a little too authentic.

MILAN



Fashion
IAN R. WEBB

Understated glamour — the little cap-sleeve shirt and baggy trousers get a gloss: JIL SANDER



Basic black still works day and night: DOLCE & GABBANA



Nothing so simple as a sweater and skirt: JIL SANDER

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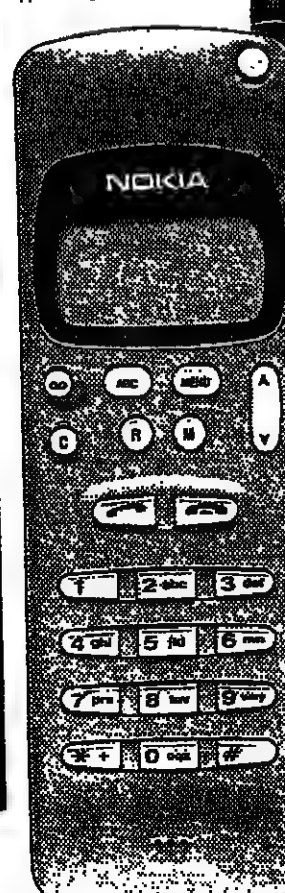
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90-93 FM

Old Tory, new Labour, now what?

Byron Criddle on the major parties' changing characters

The season of mists and fruitless conferences exposes the parties in their bare essentials. Roy Hattersley's standing ovation in the education debate last week at Brighton came courtesy of Labour's public-sector schoolteacher delegates. This week at Blackpool, pinstriped professionals will turn politely to the chair before and after their carefully sculpted orations. The public-sector ethos of Labour, the public-school ambience of the Conservatives: these are stereotypes each party nurtures of the other, but how well do the MPs and candidates match these images?

For decades now, Labour has been the party of the public sector, the more so as the proportion of MPs from manual working backgrounds has shrunk, to just 22 per cent of the parliamentary party in 1992. The public sector prevails, whether in the guise of the traditional teachers, lecturers and social workers, or officials in public sector unions, or that of leading municipal figures such as the Sheffield MPs David Blunkett and Clive Betts, who built parliamentary careers straight up out of the local council.

Of Labour's new candidates now being selected in the 60 key seats it must win to secure a majority, only one or two are not from such backgrounds. They appear to fit the stereotype of Labour as a "tax and spend" party which helped it to lose in 1992.

But this time two things are different. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown are making clear their commitment to financial prudence and the need for "tough decisions". And Labour's public sector lily is being gilded by a process of feminisation, which distracts attention from "tax and spend" caricatures and focuses on the greater representativeness of Labour as a party which, with a parliamentary majority, would have 80 women MPs to the Tories' probable 11.

Virtually all Labour's new women candidates are drawn from the public sector, but in vamping the politics of gender they potentially appeal to the women who re-elected John Major in 1992, and to the young for whom sex equality counts for immeasurably more than the old Labour politics of class and Clause Four. Labour women were also conspicuously used at Brighton to tidy up the party's act. Clare Short was given the task of driving the stake through the hard Left's heart in her denunciation of the unfrocked candidate Liz Davies; and Siobhain McDonagh (the candidate for Mitcham and Morden) roundly dispatched Arthur Scargill. Labour's women — however they were picked — cannot be attacked without risk of seeming misogynist.

At Blackpool this week, women will also be much in evidence as delegates, but they are drawn from older, traditionalist age-groups and are notorious for refusing to pick successful professional women as candidates.

With no woman yet selected for the 20 Conservative-held seats with retiring MPs, Dame Angela Rumbold, vice-chairman in charge of the candidates list, is left wringing her hands on the sidelines and contemplating her own possible defeat. In her Central Office role, Dame Angela has called for more candidates with hands-on business expertise and fewer youthful "clones" — the former apprentices, lobbyists and PR consultants who have been on the increase in recent Tory intakes. So far, four of the 20 new candidates are from such backgrounds.

Many MPs are self-employed consultants and lobbyists whose business is designed to finance their careers as professional politicians. Likewise, Labour's ranks are swelling with party staffers straight out of Walworth Road or union officialdom. On both sides, fewer and fewer MPs are professional or business people doing a spot of politics; rather they want to build and sustain careers in politics. So will Labour's MPs from the public sector, crumpling the benches in the next House, rebel if Gordon Brown is too tight on public spending, or will they rather sit tight and cultivate their parliamentary careers?

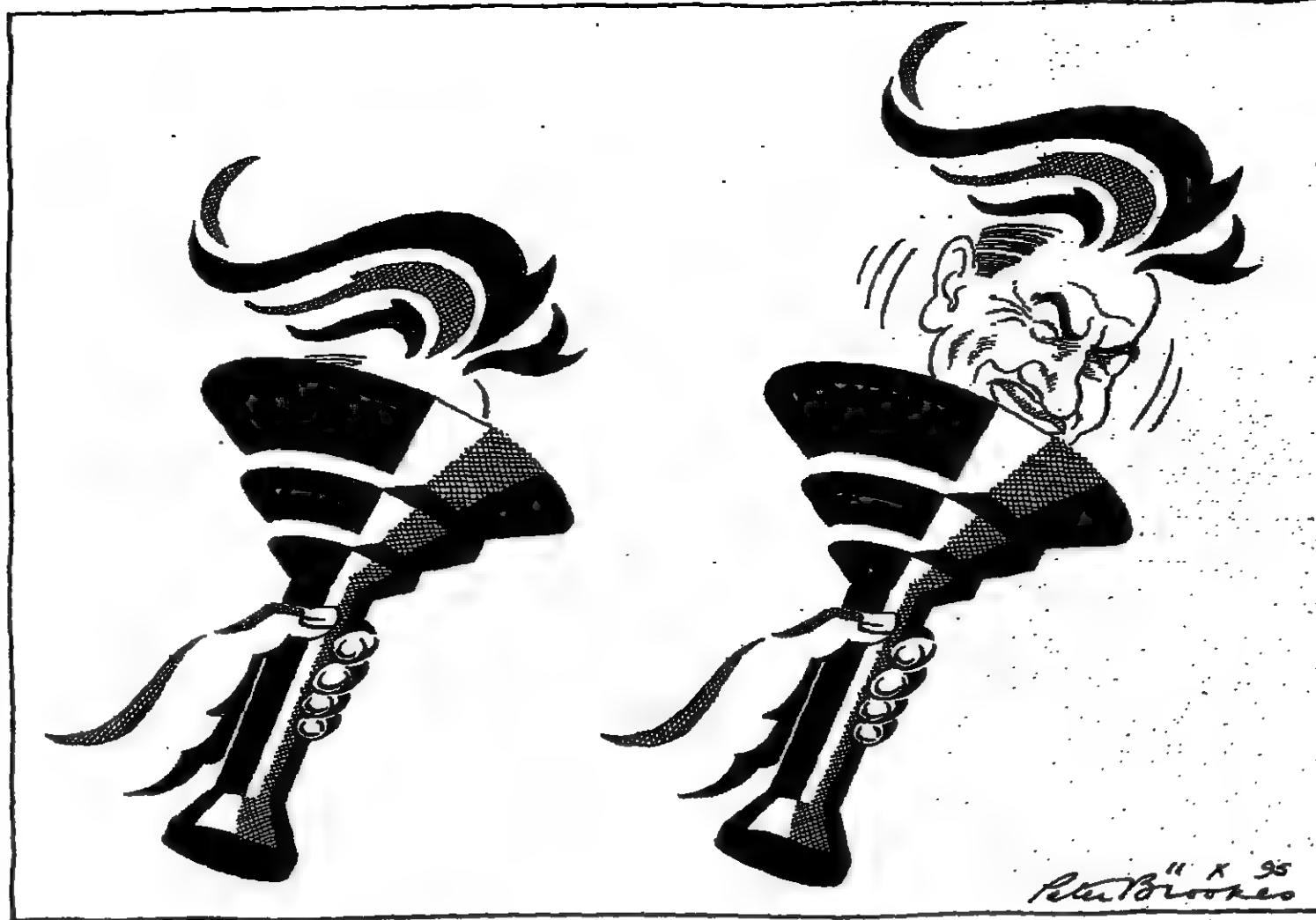
The decline in the number of Conservative MPs from traditional high-class professions is showing up in the educational profile of the Tory benches, where only six out of ten are public-school men (down from 75 per cent in 1970). Only half of the 20 new candidates in Conservative-held seats were at public school, with minor ones more common than the more famous academics.

Eton, for example, now accounts for only one in ten of all Tory MPs, compared with nearly one in five in 1970. In the next House, if 60 seats are lost, the party will be reduced from 34 Etonians to 23 (or 9 per cent of a 270-strong parliamentary party). Only one new Etonian, Oliver Letwin, has been chosen, while eight are retiring and three more, including Winston Churchill, are likely to lose.

As the captains and the kings depart, the party moves down to meet its leader from Worcester Park and his "classless society". The many small businessmen and women who pepper the floor at Blackpool this week and choose the parliamentary candidates are not yet choosing people exactly in their own image — deference is their own trade — but nor are they opting for the elaborately couched vowels of Sir Patrick Mayhew or the apologetically Etonian Douglas Hurd.

These choices look increasingly likely to push the party ideologically further from the One Nation Conservatism of Patrick Mayhew and Douglas Hurd, while the rival "public sector" and "public school" preconceptions of the parties explain less and less.

The writer is co-author of *The Almanac of British Politics*.



SETTING CONFERENCE ALIGHT

Like Paddy in long pants

Major must decide whether to govern well, or merely win the next election

Those who listen to the black box recorders of crashing planes are mesmerised by the calmness of the cockpit. They hear switches rattling, levers being pulled, a frantic search for response from a technology that is hastening them to death. Each man does his job like a robot until the final silence.

Seeing John Major on the platform at Blackpool, I sense just such a robot. His face has none of the artifice of optimism. The dome of hair, the eyes blinking behind glasses, the nervous body language, all suggest the same cry: "What else can I do?"

The machine does not respond. Nothing works. Whatever he touches, the dive gets steeper and the ground rushes closer. I believe that John Major could still conceivably win a 1996/97 election, but only because anything can happen in politics. Favourites can always stumble. In 1963 Lord Home was elected leader of an exhausted, defeated Tory party. At the next election he brought it within half a dozen MPs of victory. He almost won. But in his genial way, Home and his party wanted to win.

In the real world, far from the inanities of Blackpool, two factions are now fighting over the remaindered stock of 1990s Toryism. One is a group, primarily composed of politicians, whose natural instinct is electioneering. It sees winning and keeping power as the defining strategy of any Conservative Party. Nothing else matters, not good government nor sound money. This "victory party" is most readily identified with both Mr Major and Michael Heseltine. Their ammunition is the big spending department programmes and the patronage and publicity they can muster. Before most elections, they win the argument.

The programme is simple. It holds that Mr Major is an asset since he typifies Middle Britain. He must court the centre ground and crush the Right. There must be no more attacks on the unemployed, single mothers, divorcees, the homeless and migrant workers, no more gloating over prisons, punishments, privatisation and fat cat salaries. Mr Major must, in the language of Alan Howarth, set himself firmly against the heartless and unfair tendencies. They vote Tory anyway.

This victory party demands that the Cabinet go for broke. It offers

comfort to such electoral floaters as teachers, doctors, academics and administrators. If this is expensive, too bad. The strain need not show on central taxes if local ones are uncapped and over-spending is blamed on Labour councils. If all this increases borrowing, what is new? We are grown-ups. The party won the last three elections by engineering a boom. Would it rather have lost them? There is no virtue in honourable defeat, and the price of victory can be paid by some other fool later.

This makes the second faction's hair go grey. The "responsible party" Government cannot operate to coherent strategy. Downing Street merely rents out a field on which the Treasury and spending departments can joust. Mr Major will not even be umpire. All he does is occasionally make policy, free-

lance, as last month over education. In these circumstances, Cabinet members naturally look to their futures. Each attack from the Treasury is met by ministers assuring the world that they are "playing tough". Last weekend it was the turn of the Department of National Heritage to protest at the attempted theft of Lottery proceeds. Who cares if it spoils the start of the party conference? Blackpool is tiddlywinks. This is war.

These are the real politics of Britain, of taxing and spending, of rewarding some and punishing others. Witness the row over income tax cuts in next month's Budget. The pundits are agreed: there should be no tax cut. Public spending and borrowing are too high. Kenneth Clarke could not get a Treasury speechwriter to pen any other view. A flurry of excitement occurred last week when £4 billion was found loose in the balances of the former nationalised utilities. Five years ago the Treasury would have had that money in its pocket before you could say PAYE. It would mean 2p off income tax. But only the victory party wants that now. To the responsible party, tax cuts can go hang.

This meeting was by all accounts a shambles of staffwork. The public was variously told that it was an all-day session for the party manifesto, or a long-term review of the welfare state, or more head-bashing for the public spending round. Ministers were hamfistedly ordered by Mr

Major's aide, Norman Blackwell, to bring "three election-winning ideas" they thought that was his job. This game of Trivial Pursuit quickly degenerated into farce, as ministers realised their budgets were at risk.

What emerged to public view was a Cabinet no longer capable of discussing long-term policy choices, for instance on pensions, health and welfare. It was too immersed in contemplating its own image. A call from Fleet Street, a rumour of a row and everybody rushes to the phone. The responsible faction learnt the lesson of Chequers. It was that this

Government cannot operate to coherent strategy. Downing Street merely rents out a field on which the Treasury and spending departments can joust. Mr Major will not even be umpire. All he does is occasionally make policy, free-

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Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren



■ When it comes to immortality, it's Trafalgar Square or — er — bust

Do you recall that chilling moment in Sartre's *Huis Clos* when the three dead (but talkative) inhabitants of the hell that is other people suddenly hear the unmistakable noise, of instant brick-laying, and, running to the window of the small hotel room in which they are doomed to spend eternity, find it is now a solid wall? Understandably agitated — for if you are spending eternity in a small hotel room, it is nice to have a bit of a view — they inquire why the window has been bricked up, and are told that it is because there is now nobody in the mortal world who remembers them. Their name lived for evermore. Like Monty Python's parrot, they are ex-people.

No wonder it's a chilling moment: we troop shivering from the theatre, able to think of nothing but our perishability. How long, in our case, will it be before the sands of time refill our shallow footprints? How long will it take, after our revels end, for not a rack to be left behind? How long before Time's ever-rolling stream bears away us whose names are writ in water? And how long will I go on teasing you like this when I have joyously positive answers so readily to hand?

For see, here on the desk before me lies the shimmering prospectus of something entitled *Carlton Forge*. And, you know, it has flown all the way from Salem, Oregon, to offer me a cockshy at imperishability for less than the cost of a small family saloon! Why they have selected me I cannot be certain, but a shrewd guess would be that it is yet another benefit of my inclusion, willy-nilly, in unpeeped of those self-styled major reference works which canny American publishers cobble for the purpose of milking the vain. It causes like this: one day, your byline appears in the United States in an annual edition of *The Times*, the next you are given notice that you are now in a major reference work entitled *Honours of Distinction or Top Banana of Our Time*, or countless other catchpenny spin-offs of *Who's Who*, which you are then, offered, at the incredible Achiever's Discount of \$200 so that it may grace your corporate office or home den on a shelf of its own (\$150) beneath a personalised plaque (\$300) stating that you, as a leading human being, are included in the book beneath.

Many Americans go for this, because there is no point waiting around for posterity to honour you if you can get it done now this minute for a few hundred bucks; but even if you do not buy the book and its tasteful accoutrements, you are forever after a target for mailshots offering you further opportunities to make yourself honoured and famous. And now Carlton Forge will enable you to make yourself imperishable. Just send them a dozen assorted studio photographs and \$10,000, and they will make a life-size statue of you, "an indestructible, bronze-finished masterpiece". To include, since you ask, a handsome plinth.

Shall I have one of me? Believe me, I am tempted. I have even worked on my pose, before the glass; brooding like Gladstone, leaning on my cane like Churchill, raising my leg like Prince Albert, bandying my hats and imagining an indestructible bronze-finish horse between, and pondering where I should be sited for best immortality effect. Hang on, you cry, surely you can be sited only in your Cricklewood garden, it is merely a matter of choosing to be beside the fishpond or over there by the shed? You do not realise how wrong you are. They know a thing or two about imperishability up. Carlton Forge, they appreciate that when my house is posthumously sold, the new owners could well bang me on the skip to make way for a nice carport, and they have the answer.

The answer is a further \$5,000. That is all it would cost if I chose to be sited not in my own backyard but "on one of hundreds of plots worldwide which we have purchased for clients who may wish to be on more public view". Imagine posterity coming round some corner of a foreign road to find me, imperishably plinthed, with a nice bit of Kipling on my plinth! Truly, hell's window would never brick up for me. The world would talk of me till hell itself froze over. All that's holding me and my \$15,000 back is what it would say.

Howarth's way

THE TORIES believe they have discovered a secret influence behind Alan Howarth's decision to defect to new Labour.

At first it was thought to be his glamorous parliamentary "pair", Margaret Hodge, the former leader of Islington council. Now the name on everybody's lips is that of the elegant, flame-haired Labour peer, Baroness Hollis of Heigham. Patricia Hollis, a life peer and former Labour leader on Norfolk City Council, is the Opposition's spokesman on social security in the Upper House. She works frequently with Howarth at Westminster in the parliamentary groups on the disabled and homelessness. Her left-of-centre political stance appears closely akin to Howarth's new-found ideology.

They have been seen dining together inside and outside Westminster, and this has inevitably led colleagues to speculate that Hollis helped to woo the dissident Stratford-on-Avon MP to cross the floor of the Commons.

Hollis says: "My contacts with Alan Howarth were really over the Disability Bill, which we both supported. It is absurd to suggest anything else."



Baroness Hollis

Howarth is equally touchy: "I have many friends across the whole of the political spectrum. Any intimation of an improper relationship will be dealt with extremely firmly."

● A colleague fighting the flab at Grayshott Hall health farm in Hindhead, Surrey, paused for breath the other day and his gaze fell upon a vision in a bathrobe. He insists it was Emma Thompson. The actress who has just split up from her husband Kenneth Branagh, looking a rejuvenating facial.

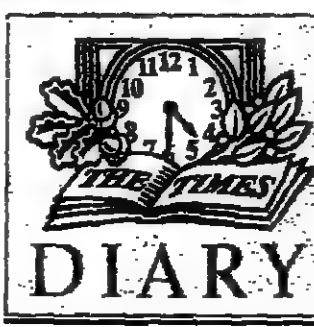
Euro snore

THE FOREIGN Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, was forced to raise his voice at the Blackpool conference yesterday, when a stentorian rumbling split the air and threatened to drown out his speech on "Foreign Policy and Europe".

A Conservative councillor by the name of Ron Cook was fast asleep on the floor at the back of the auditorium, conference papers fluttering in his breeze. He remained oblivious to prods and shakes of angry delegates: "People were pummelling him, but he stayed resolutely asleep," said one. "He was snoring like a walrus."

Maxwell's ass

TAKING a break from the Old Bailey, Kevin Maxwell has summoned the law to help him to search for an ass called Merlin.



Police are hunting for the donkey, which has disappeared from his Oxfordshire home.

The Maxwells were providing accommodation for the beast, which belonged to an itinerant odd-job man who has been working as a gardener for the Maxwells at Moulford Manor, near Wallingford. But in the early hours of Monday Merlin vanished as mysteriously as a pension fund. "There was the noise of a vehicle next to the paddock about 2am, although it was not until later that we realised Merlin had gone," sobbed Pandora Maxwell.

● Buzz Aldrin made it to the Moon but he was foiled yesterday by the French strike. He failed to appear at a television sales conference in Cannes to launch a programme about Cape Canaveral for which he acted as a consultant.

"He's stranded somewhere en route but we don't know exactly where," said a spokesman.

Battle royal

THERE COULD be bloody scenes in Prince Edward's forthcoming election battle to become honorary president of Stirling University. The mature student who is standing against him turns out to have been a former member of the Scottish National Liberation Army who says his fellow students "deserve better than



"Monsieur, everybody is on strike"

Prince Edward to represent them".

The third-year sociology student, Ben Goodwin, 36, also claims to have been a Special Branch agent. "When I joined the SNP you could say I fell in with a bad crowd, and I quickly realised what was going on," he says. "I went to the police to tell them what I knew, and they asked me if I would stay in the group, as an informant. That's when I was recruited into the Special Branch." Let's hope the Prince knows what he is up against.

Snoop scoop

THERE WAS an ugly skirmish at a party thrown by Angus MacKinnon, the new editor of *GQ*, at Vogue House on Monday night. Relations between the two men's magazines had thawed since the sudden death of Michael Verne, *GQ*'s larger-than-life former editor, and an *Esquire* delegation was invited to the party to honour the American author Walter Mosley's new novel, *RL's Dream*.

"But then I came across one of them in the office trying to look at December's flatplan," says a *Condé Nast* spokeswoman. "I led him out. Maybe he got lost on the way to the men's room but he didn't say anything."

P.H.S

ON FLOOR AND FRINGE

The voices against European integration are loud and clearer

There was a strong sense of direction among Conservatives at Blackpool yesterday. From conference floor and fringe, Michael Portillo and John Redwood dominated events. They articulated the European policy that party representatives wanted to hear. They set the tone that the conference will want to hear from the Prime Minister. And they set it in a context of scathing attacks on Labour rather than scabrous remarks about colleagues.

Fired by the success of Labour's conference last week, and aware that the general election is drawing nearer, the Tories are trying hard to retarget the Opposition. Their skills are in need of further honing. Hyperbole is the most used trick in their rhetorical handbook. But the spirit has begun to return. All those on the party's Euro-sceptic wing have reason for confidence. With a new Foreign Secretary, who spoke with reason and power yesterday, and the shift in foreign policy that his words made clear, they can rightly claim that the Government is moving their way.

Events outside Blackpool have continued to help their cause. Economic integration is disintegrating fast. As the franc falls, it becomes daily closer to a franc faible, we can all once again pose that great linguistic question: what is the French word for *Schadenfreude*? The prospect of monetary union happening as planned in 1999 draws ever more distant. Whatever their true views of Europe's turmoil, however, the Tory triumphalists need to avoid excessive and premature celebrations. There is still a chance that Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac will stitch together a last-minute deal. More importantly, Tory supporters need to be reminded that such a chance exists.

If the prospect of a single currency were to vanish altogether, then a Blair government would seem a much less dangerous proposition. Those Tories for whom Europe is the key issue of our time might think it safe to switch allegiance. The best hope for John Major is that monetary union stays a distant enough possibility for him to be able to draw a sharp contrast between his party

and Mr Blair's. He could then promise not to join a single currency, at least during the lifetime of the next Parliament.

Such a promise would be entirely consonant with the traditionally cautious approach towards Europe that Britain has always adopted. Nobody yet knows whether membership of a single currency would or would not be in this country's economic interests. If it were as self-evidently good for Britain as its proponents suggest, then France and Germany would not be so worried about countries gaining advantage from remaining outside it. Aside from the constitutional problems of ceding sovereignty over monetary policy, it makes sense in pure economic terms to wait a few years and see. Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be able to agree with that.

If, as appears increasingly unlikely, a single currency were to be achieved in 1999, any sensible government with an opt-out would want to let it run for three years or so before deciding whether to join. This would conveniently take Britain up to the date of the following general election. A pledge to stay out in the next Parliament would thus be a moderate and perfectly defensible idea.

The party in the country is in favour: one of the loudest bursts of applause in the foreign policy debate at Blackpool yesterday was for a representative who said "it is time that we ruled out a single currency altogether." Most of the parliamentary Conservative Party would support it. The only real opposition is in the Cabinet.

If Mr Major is worried about making such a pledge, it is because he fears the reaction of Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, men who argue that Britain would lose influence in designing the currency if it announced now that it would not join in 1999. This is a poor substitute for reason: all the important decisions have already been made. The Prime Minister called the leadership contest in July so that he could reassess his authority. If he does not feel strong enough to do so now, then that contest was in vain.

CANTERBURY AND KHARTOUM

Dr Carey stands up for Sudan's Christians

The Archbishop of Canterbury is an equitable man, not known normally for rousing a crowd to great fervour. Yet Dr George Carey, revealed on Sunday that his character has a passionate dimension as well as a compassionate one. Addressing some 75,000 Sudanese Christians at an open-air service in the war-torn town of Juba, Dr Carey demanded religious tolerance from the regime in Khartoum. He castigated the Islamic Government of General Omar Hassan al-Bashir for its policy towards Christians — "one of torture, rape, destruction of property, slavery and death", as well as forcible conversion to Islam. And he challenged those responsible for such behaviour to stop. "It is no part of any creed to treat fellow human beings with such disrespect and cruelty," the archbishop said.

Dr Carey deserves the greatest support and encouragement in his crusade on behalf of Sudan's subjugated Christians. His unofficial visit to the south of the country in December 1993 — his first as archbishop — attracted the hostility of General al-Bashir's beleaguered regime. This time he visited Sudan as a guest of the Government, and was able to attack, in Khartoum itself, the oppression of the Christian minority. "The list of grievances which Christians feel is long and heavy," he told his hosts. "Religious tolerance, which should be at the heart of any civilised nation, is not being granted to them."

Dr Carey should be congratulated for his

bluntness of word and deed. He spoke out against an evil regime in its own territory; and he sought out those brave priests and leaders who daily battle for the survival of their dwindling Christian communities. "You have had to survive out in the bush," he told them, "battered and hated." But he marvelled also at their unbroken spirit and the strength of their faith. The archbishop called on General al-Bashir's regime to channel this resilience in a spirit of reconciliation.

Such reconciliation can only come with a moderation of Khartoum's Sharia-based methods. Sudan is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious country: to attempt to rule all its citizens by the strictest Islamic tenets, whether Muslim, Christian or animist, can result only in tyranny. "Islam is not to be feared, but a process of Islamisation imposed on a nation undermines fundamental freedoms," said Dr Carey.

It is very likely that these criticisms will be ignored by the country's Islamic regime. General al-Bashir's spiritual mentor, Hassan al-Turabi, has spoken repeatedly of a "resurgence of Islamic energy through Jihad". Al-Turabi is the de facto leader of Sudan, and there could be no gulf greater than that which lies between him and Dr Carey. But the Archbishop of Canterbury, by his visit and by his expression of human solidarity, has at least shown that there is no gulf between a vigilant Anglican Church and Sudan's own suffering Christians.

EQUINE OPPORTUNITIES

Not so much a professorial chair, more of a regius saddle

Today Cambridge University gazettes the appointment of the first professor of equine reproduction. Professor "Twink" Allen is to take the Jim Joel Chair, endowed by a philanthropic and philippic diamond merchant from South Africa. This is an elevation that we take on trust to be wholly deserved. Certainly, it is in the right place.

The younger of the two ancient universities has been modernist in its studies since the Renaissance. It already has chairs in such forward-looking disciplines as animal welfare and international macroeconomics. If the chair had been founded at Oxford, undergraduates might have had to learn Greek in order to trace the bloodlines of Pherenikos, "bringer of victory", in Pindar's Olympian Odes. And prelims would have stopped at the 16th century, with the importation of Barbs from Italy and Spain by Henry VIII.

But the lucky veterinary undergraduates at Cambridge are going to study this profitable branch of their science at the stirrups of a modern racing mare. In his previous work for the Thoroughbred Breeder's Association at Newmarket, Professor Allen, cured Celtic Ring of barrenness to give birth to Celtic Swing, and helped Dancing Brave recover from Marie's disease to sire Commander in Chief, the Derby-winner of two years ago. He has done much stud reproductive work for Sheikh Mohammed. His new chair has every right to the ancient prefix regius. Henry VIII and some of his descendants may have shown a passing interest in such disciplines as theology and classics. But they have all been passionately

interested in racing, and the Queen and her mother are still as knowledgeable about the sport as anybody else in their kingdoms. In all but title, Charles II was the first Cambridge horse professor, and became known as the father of the English turf because of the King's Plates, his races that made Newmarket the headquarters of racing.

Horse breeding is a very old, complex science. Studbooks and bloodlines meander back more than three centuries to the three "Oriental" stallions and 43 "royal mares" imported by Charles II, from which all thoroughbreds are said to descend. To a philistine, reproduction might seem a simpler study in fleas, which also jump and can wear saddles in flea circuses. Their reproductive cycle is so much quicker than the 11 months a mare is pregnant. But the romance and beauty of a galloping horse, captured by painters, photographers and poets, is a humaner science and well worthy of its chair.

Chance and skill win card-playing; chance and knowledge win at racing. But fortunately horse knowledge will always be susceptible to error of the kind that makes humans call horses peculiar names — especially if they fail to finish in the first three. May its new chair keep Cambridge as the market leader in horse reproduction, while adding to the sum of human knowledge. But its scholarship must never become infallible. For if Professor Allen and his department were to breed the unbeatable horse, such certainty would destroy the point of the sport of kings — and of professors.

Repercussions of Howarth's move

From Mrs Juliet Tofield

Sir, While I applaud Alan Howarth's brave decision to stand up for his views and change parties (letters, October 10), I cannot help reflecting that there is every possibility of his taking the personal tragedy of having a disabled son to make him empathise with the many people in this country who have been adversely affected by successive Tory governments. It should not be necessary to be a victim of Tory social policies to understand the resulting hardships, and deplore them on other people's behalf.

One can only hope that the publicity given to Mr Howarth's decision will wake up enough habitual Tory voters to see more clearly what has been happening to many people for years.

Yours faithfully,
JULIET TOFIELD,
12 Highfield Road,
Newbury, Berkshire.

From Mr Denis MacShane,
MP for Rotherham (Labour)

Sir, Lord Belfort (letter, October 10) was not listening to the same debate on education at the Labour Party conference that I and all other delegates heard. While it is true that some speakers used the language of very old Labour, the vast majority spoke in favour of diversity and excellence in schools.

Ironically, the most powerful speaker against the Labour Party policy said that standards did not count as much as structures. This is almost exactly the Tory line which has favoured segregated education for social and class reasons at the expense of high standards for all children, irrespective of the financial status of their parents. However the views of that gentleman were strongly repudiated by 75 per cent of all the conference delegates, who endorsed the line put forward by Tony Blair and David Blunkett.

After 16 years of Conservative Secretary of State for Education Britain now lies 35th in world league tables for global comparative performance in education and training. Lord Belfort might care to ponder that alarming fact before he criticises Alan Howarth. One-nation Britain cannot be built by the segregated school structure promoted by Mr Major and Mrs Shephard.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MACSHANE,
House of Commons,
October 10.

From Mr Alan Blyth

Sir, Thank you, Libby Purves ("The new wind of change", October 10) for expressing so cogently the mood of so many in the country for a new morality in politics. What the current Tory party will not, probably cannot, understand is that we want people of Alan Howarth's sympathetic, caring mould running the country rather than the likes of Michael Howard, John Redwood and Michael Portillo.

The stark contrast of Howarth's honesty and plain-dealing with the mean rinds of those who are trying to rubbish him says it all.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BLYTH,
22 Shilling Street, Lavenham, Suffolk.

From Mrs M. S. Kearsley

Sir, Mr Howarth has made much of what he sees as "hypocrisy" in his criticism of this Government.

What was more arrogant than his assumption that the seat of Stratford-upon-Avon was to give away without consulting the electors who voted for him as their Conservative MP?

Yours faithfully,
M. S. KEARSELEY,
Kerwilly House,
Upper Church Street,
Cuddington, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr R. J. Clifford

Sir, As one of Alan Howarth's constituents who has known him since he first represented Stratford-upon-Avon I cannot criticise him for deciding that his own personal views are now closer to those of the Labour than the Conservative Party. That is his prerogative, and I sympathise with the mental anguish he must have undergone in reaching that decision, having been elected by a substantial majority of Conservative voters.

I also accept that Members of Parliament are not the delegates of those who vote for them, but are entitled to exercise their own judgment on specific issues which arise in Parliament. However, it seems to me that Alan Howarth has taken a step which goes well beyond this and that the only honourable course is for him now to resign his seat and stand again under his new colours.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. CLIFFORD,
Little Manor,
Haseley, Nr Alcester, Warwickshire.

From Dr T. D. J. Chappell

Sir, If the reason why Alan Howarth should resign and seek re-election is because he has broken faith with those who elected him, then John Major had better resign and seek re-election too.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. J. CHAPPELL,
University of East Anglia,
School of Economic and
Social Studies,
Norwich NR4 7TJ,
October 10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Obligations of external examiners

From Mr T. F. Powys-Lybbe

Sir, Dr Tony Greenfield (letter, October 6) explained that he would not do external examining for £250 for five days' work plus £50 a day for reading scripts.

While anyone who knows the rates paid to consultants, notably by the Government itself, would share his decision, perhaps for most external examiners these are not the full facts. Surely they already have an income from their presumed university post? I find it most unlikely that they would refund to their normal employers their earnings for the time they spend on external examining. The external examiner's fees are solely to be seen as an addition to an agreed income.

Surely, Dr Greenfield owes it as a duty to his profession to sit as an external examiner, in order to maintain standards throughout the country, provided, of course, that sensible expenses are covered. Perhaps a small amount could be added for the inconvenience of being away. Fifty pounds a day sounds fair for that.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY POWYS-LYBBE,
Rosewood,
Church Road,
Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire,
October 7.

Inconsistencies in GCSE grades

From Professor David Burghes

Sir, Your report (October 9) regarding standards of exam grades may have given the impression that recent research undertaken at the Centre for Innovation in Mathematics Teaching at Exeter University referred to my work as chair of examiners of A-level mathematics at the Associated Examining Board. This is not the case. Our recent research work has, at present, been confined to investigating standards of grading for GCSE mathematics across two exam groups with which I am in no way connected.

Our results, which have shown significant inconsistencies across the two exam groups, indicate to us that, with a common syllabus for GCSE exams, it would be much fairer to all concerned if the groups could combine into one large exam group, producing a single national exam for each subject.

Exam grades are crucial both for individuals, where particular grades can determine the direction of their careers, and for teachers and schools, since such importance is now attached to league tables based on grades achieved. A fair system is urgently needed. Combining the groups together for GCSE exams is not only fairer but simple and cost-effective, using the available expertise inside the groups more efficiently. The issues at A level, although just as important, are more complex since the exam boards do offer, to a certain extent, different syllabuses and hence genuine choice.

Yours sincerely,
D. N. BURGHEES,
University of Exeter,
Centre for Innovation in
Mathematics Teaching,
School of Education, Exeter EX1 2LU,
October 10.

BBC 'at front line'

From Mrs Cynthia M. Manning

Sir, What is so special about BBC reporters that they "will not have to suffer their brief encounter with the alleged atrocities of Mrs Rosemary West for more than two days at a time" before they are deemed to need counselling (report, October 4)? Are the judge, jury, police, lawyers also to be counselled every two days? Surely their stress will be much greater.

Before these so-called counselling specialists emerged, such problems were discussed with one's family, trusted friends, the family doctor or the priest — people who knew the person in trouble and were therefore much better able to offer free help and advice.

In the event of there being no shoulder on which to shed one's tears, one struggled through on one's own. It was called growing up or learning to cope with adult life. As one grows older, one copes with emergencies, disasters, bereavements, other problems, as they arise. It's a sign of maturity.

Yours faithfully,
CYNTHIA M. MANNING,
12 Field Way,
Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset,
October 4.

Legal aid fees

From Mr Stanley Best

Sir, Your report, "Top-paid silk agrees to work for nothing" (October 9; letter, October 7), telling us that Peter Goldsmith, QC, Chairman of the Bar, "has personally accepted Tony Blair's challenge to professionals last week to work for nothing for three days a year" demonstrates how little Mr Blair and others recall the real lives of barristers and solicitors.

As a junior barrister I have, like many others, already worked more than three days for nothing this year and, again, like others, have done so for years. Barristers and solicitors working in what one establishment figure described as "the gritty end of the market", i.e. for legally aided clients, are accustomed to having to do a lot for nothing and, when paid, being paid at abysmally low rates.

From Professor John Brignell

Sir, Hurrah for Tony Greenfield, who had the temerity to turn down an invitation to be external examiner at a university. I was minded to do the same when I received my first such invitation 15 years ago. My then head of department took me to one side and gently explained that if we refused to do this service for others it would go round full circle, the system would break down and we would be unable to obtain suitable external examiners ourselves.

I have been on the rack ever since, doing weeks of extra gruelling work at a rate of pay one tenth of what I could get by industrial consultancy. I find it outrageous that my own university employs some of the world's leading authorities in this capacity and pays them an hourly rate lower than that given to office cleaners. Students who feel hard done by during summer examinations might give a thought to the hapless external examiner, whose spring was ruined by having to work through every question on every paper for every year.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. BRIGNELL,
Chalk Bank Cottage,
Broughton, Stockbridge, Hampshire,
October 7.

A keen eye for a literary winner

From Mr Peter Brooke, CH,
MP for City of London and
Westminster South (Conservative)

Sir, Philip Howard devoted an entire and eloquent column ("He also served though he never wrote a book", September 22) to the memorial service of Charles Monteth, the former chairman of Faber & Faber, at which Seamus Heaney gave the address.

The news (report, October 6) that Heaney is the new Nobel Laureate for Literature reminds us that Monteth, having published William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* after 19 other publishers had rejected it, asked Heaney if he might see his poetry with a view to publication, on the basis of seeing three poems in a small magazine.

Golding and Heaney have of course become the first two Laureates for Literature from these islands since Churchill and Beckett. Monteth would have been the first to salute their achievement but it was his imaginative and scholarly eye which first chose them, and it is only sad he did not live the few extra months to see his second barrel score.

Yours etc,
PETER BROOKE,
House of Commons,
October 7.

Poets on plates

From Mrs Shirley Mowbray

Sir, I share Lord Thomas's wish (letter, September 30; see also letters, October 3) to commemorate Britain's greatest writers in the year 2000. But let us not destroy statues of other great men. Surely it is more appropriate (and cheaper) to immortalise wordsmiths in their own words?

Couldn't we instal a Whirlers' Walk, like the wonderful one in Sydney? Every few yards from the Opera House to Circular Quay — a distance of about 400 yards — a brass plate in the pavement commemorates a writer, with an inspiring quotation from his works (usually about Australia or Sydney itself). Some of them moved me to tears.

Think how marvellous it would be to walk by the Thames and read, as you walk, what our greatest writers wrote about our "flower of cities all".

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY MOWBRAY,
2A Park Place Villas, W2,
September 30.

Coptic Orthodoxy

From Dr Samir Hakim

Sir, The Coptic Orthodox Church has been accused — wrongly — of being "monophyisite", believing "that Christ had only one nature, His divine nature" (Andrew Bond's letter, October 4).

The Coptic Orthodox Church has believed throughout its history that the nature of Christ is the union of the divine nature of God and the human nature of man.

So He is complete in His divinity and also in His humanity. If our Lord had only one nature, divine or human, our redemption would not have been possible.

Yours sincerely,
SAMIR HAKIM
(Church secretary),
St Mark's Coptic Orthodox
Church Centre,
Links Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife,
October 7.

From the Metropolitan of
Glastonbury

Sir, Mr Bond speaks of the rift between the Oriental and Eastern Orthodox churches in 451 but omits to mention the very significant theological agreement which has been achieved in the last decade.

The British Orthodox Church is a local church within the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria ministering to the indigenous population, but it shares a common faith and tradition with our brethren among the Greek, Russian, Syrian, Armenian, Ethiopian, Romanian, Serbian and other Orthodox churches.

Since 1985 there has existed a Joint Commission of the Theological Dialogue between the two Orthodox families which has made very considerable progress towards eventual reunion.

The recognition that there are two families, Eastern and Oriental, both faithfully adhering to the Orthodox faith, is something which is widely welcomed.

Yours etc,
SERAPHIM,
Metropolitan of Glastonbury,
British Orthodox Church,
10 Heathwood Gardens,
Charlton, SE7,
October 1.

Eye of the beholder

From Mrs B. J. Jones

Sir, Criticism of the portrait artist Henry Mee (article and photograph, September 29; letter, October 5) is not justified. It required great skill and perception on his part to show us what the Princess of Wales feels like first thing in the morning.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN JONES,
Greensleeves, Bellevue Lane,
Guilford, Surrey, GU10 1JL,
October 7.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime
telephone number. They may be
faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

JOHN CAIRNCROSS

John Cairncross, Foreign Office and Treasury official dismissed for passing information to the Soviet agent Guy Burgess; died on October 8 aged 82. He was born on July 27, 1913.

THE downfall of John Cairncross — identified by the KGB double agent Oleg Gordievsky as the Fifth Man in 1990 — occurred in the wake of the defection of the traitors Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean in May 1951. A trunk left behind by Burgess was found by security officials to contain a set of handwritten notes, penned in 1939. These provided a tour d'horizon of top level government thinking about the threat from Hitler's Germany and the posture of appeasement adopted by a number of politicians and top civil servants of the period, including the Prime Minister of the day Neville Chamberlain.

One of the notes referred to a luncheon with Sir John Colville, a senior government official, later to become Churchill's secretary. Colville was able to check the date in his diary and help to identify the handwriting as that of Cairncross. "I was horrified," he later recalled. "He was a brilliant fellow, perhaps one of the best brains in the Foreign Office."

Cairncross was interrogated twice by William Skardon, the MI5 interrogator who had uncovered the atom spy Klaus Fuchs (but failed to unmask Kim Philby). Cairncross confirmed that while at the Foreign Office he had been in the habit of meeting Guy Burgess from time to time. He had not, apparently, met Burgess at Cambridge but had got to know him later, in London.

Cairncross later pointed out that he spent only two years in the Foreign Office "in a very junior capacity" and that he transferred to the Treasury in October 1938, where he handled only non-confidential material. Nevertheless, as a result of the Skardon investigation, Cairncross was first suspended and then, in 1952, "required to resign" without a pension from the Treasury. It was apparently decided not to prosecute him since his role was a relatively minor one and did not merit a treason trial. Cairncross immediately moved abroad, only returning to Britain six months ago.

When in 1979 Anthony Blunt was unmasked as the fourth member of the Burgess, Maclean, Philby, nest of Cambridge traitors, the failure to prosecute Cairncross caused a parliamentary row involving allegations that he, like Blunt, had escaped judicial reckoning because of "double standards" which protected members of the establishment.

John Cairncross was educated at Hamilton Academy, Glasgow University, the Sorbonne and at Trinity



College, Cambridge, where in addition to gaining a First in French and German he joined the Communist Party, seeing communism at that time as a bulwark against the rising tide of Hitler's Nazism.

After briefly considering an academic career, he entered the Foreign Office. As one of its most promising recruits he seemed set for a brilliant diplomatic career, being fabled to reach ambassadorial rank. But this was not to be.

Cairncross served in the American department, at the League of Nations and in the Central and Western departments. However, he was considered unsuitable for representative posts abroad and, in 1938, was transferred to the Treasury. In September 1940 he became private secretary to Lord Hankey, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster-General.

In 1942 he was called up, joining the Royal Armoured Corps but

because of his exceptional linguistic talents, he was posted to the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley. Assigned initially to Hut 3, he also worked for a time as head of a section.

But he was apt to belittle the work he was called upon to do, as being not good enough for his qualifications. His colleagues were said to have been glad to be rid of him when in 1943 he joined Section V of the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) which studied and analysed the German espionage machine. It was here that he met Kim Philby for the first time.

In 1945 he returned to the Treasury and was seconded to the Ministry of Supply. Here again he was apparently not judged a success and he returned, later the same year, to the Treasury, still a principal, the rank he had held since 1943.

After being dismissed in 1952,

Cairncross settled in Rome where he became the accredited correspondent for *The Economist*, *The Observer* and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). In June 1953 he moved to Geneva to work as a temporary translator for the United Nations, and subsequently moved between Geneva and Rome undertaking freelance work for *The Scotsman* as well as *The Economist* and CBC. He acted, from 1953 to 1956, as a consultant for the UN technical assistance office in Geneva, from where he also freelanced for the Italian newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*.

In 1957 he joined the staff of the UN Economic Commission of Asia as editor of documents. Four years later he returned to Rome as an economic consultant and in 1962 and 1963 spent time in Pakistan with a Harvard University advisory group. In 1964 he visited the United States for six months as chairman of the department of commerce at Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

When Cairncross's role in the Burgess-Maclean affair was brought to light in 1979 he denied passing top secret information to Burgess that was harmful to Britain. He always claimed that his main service to the Soviet war effort was to place at the disposal of the Red Army the precise dispositions of German units before the Battle of Kursk, the titanic clash between Russian and German armour in the summer of 1943, which effectively decided the outcome of the war on the Eastern Front. There was a difference, he said, between working for an ally, as Russia then was, and working for the Soviet Union during the Cold War, something he always resolutely denied doing.

Indeed, he always claimed that he had left the Communist Party after a year, his feelings for it having changed before he joined the Foreign Office.

In 1991, following the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, a KGB colonel, Yuri Modin, claimed that he had been Cairncross's controller and that Cairncross, together with Philby, Burgess, Maclean and Blunt, had been known collectively as The Five — men singled out as agents whose material should get priority. Modin said the five had all worked independently, thereby putting into question long-held theories that they had been part of an organised ring recruited at Cambridge in the 1930s.

Cairncross had recently completed his memoirs, to be entitled *Agent for the Duration*, which are scheduled for publication in the coming months. Though his marriage to his first wife, Gabriella, was never dissolved, their relationship broke up in the 1960s. After her death this summer he married his longtime companion, Gayle Brinkerhoff, who survives him.

SIR PHILIP OPPENHEIMER

Sir Philip Oppenheimer, Chairman of the Diamond Trading Company since 1975, died on October 8 aged 83. He was born on October 29, 1911.



EVERY July for the last 23 years a quiet gentleman in a grey suit accompanied the Queen in the winner's enclosure at Ascot to present one of racing's most glittering prizes: the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes. For Philip Oppenheimer the occasion represented a happy association of his two greatest interests, for if racing was his passion, the diamond industry was his life.

It was not always so, as he himself later admitted. Although a member of a family whose name, even then, was synonymous with diamonds, when in 1933 he came down from Jesus College, Cambridge, where he had read history and law and won a boxing blue, he had drifted into the diamond industry. It was, he said, counter to an "inherent laziness" and against the initial advice of his father, Otto, who was running the London marketing arm of De Beers.

The early 1930s was not the best time to begin a career in a diamond industry still trapped in the backwash of the Great Depression. As chairman of De Beers, his uncle Sir Ernest Oppenheimer had just begun to construct the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) which, as a producers' co-operative, was to restore stability to the industry and eliminate the wild price fluctuations which had brought about the closure of many mines. Despite his family connections, Philip Oppenheimer started at the bottom as a "kind of office boy", before training as a diamond sorter in London, Antwerp and Kimberley.

He returned to England in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War to join the ranks in the Royal Artillery. Eventually taking a commission in the Berkshire Yeomanry, he ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel in combined operations, winning the Dutch Bronze Cross for his role during the allied landings in Sicily. In later years this essentially modest man re-

quired much prompting to tell the story of that action in which, when the Dutch gunboat in which he served as Bombardment Liaison Officer was disabled and his captain killed, Oppenheimer who knew nothing about navigation, took command of the boat while continuing to direct fire on enemy emplacements.

After the war Oppenheimer returned to London, where De Beers' offices at St Andrew's House had been destroyed by a direct hit during the Blitz. In 1948 after the death of his father and with the encouragement of his uncle Ernest, he took over the management of the London CSO, becoming chairman in 1956, when he was also appointed a director of De Beers. It says much for his stewardship that, when he stepped down as President of the CSO at the end of 1993, annual world diamond sales channelled through the organisation had risen from \$154 million in 1948 to \$4.4 billion.

A key to this exponential growth was Oppenheimer's role in persuading the growing ranks of new producers to market their diamonds through the CSO, and his greatest coup was the signing in 1959 of the first contract with Soviet Russia, which was to become a major player in the world diamond industry.

From then until he stepped down as chairman of the CSO in favour of his nephew, Harry Oppenheimer's son Nicholas, he continued to lead all subsequent negotiations with the Russians, who respected his indomitable persistence as much as they responded to his quiet humour.

His courteous manner and

his diffidence concealed a steely will. As Harry once remarked, Philip was always better at negotiations than he. Whereas Harry, presented with a problem, would think of a hundred different ways of solving it, Philip had the capacity to "just sit there saying no". On one famous occasion, growing weary of Russian intransigence, he announced that negotiations would conclude at a certain time when he would catch the flight back to London. The deal was finally sealed by a Russian official shaking hands with Philip through the window of his departing car.

In 1970 as expanding world diamond production flowed to and through London, he was knighted for his services to UK exports. In Belgium he was made Commandeur de l'Ordre de la Couronne in 1971, and Commandeur de l'Ordre de Leopold in 1977.

An early interest in horses was fostered during Oppenheimer's boyhood in Bracknell where he had ridden to hounds with the Bucks & Berks Stag Hounds. At Cambridge, as captain of the university boxing team, he had to choose between racing and the ring, but his interest in racing later revived when he bought a share in a mare at a Newmarket stud owned by an old Jesus College friend, Nicky Morris.

In 1965 Oppenheimer bought the Hascombe Stud, founded by Sir John Jarvis, and it was there that he lived during the final years of his life. He bred many successful fillies, including his greatest triumph, On The House, the 33-1 winner of the 1,000 Guineas in 1982.

In 1972, a year after his election to the Jockey Club, he persuaded De Beers to sponsor a major race, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes. Over the next 23 years, this became one of the major events of the British racing calendar. Though a dedicated bridge player and keen golfer, horses always remained his ruling passion. It was singularly fitting that his last public appearance was in the Ascot Winners' Enclosure at Diamond Day this year.

Sir Philip Oppenheimer leaves his widow, Pamela, and their son and daughter.

PATRIC WALKER

Patric Walker, astrologer, died from complications arising from a fall from a balcony on October 8 aged 64. He was born on September 25, 1931.

FEW readers stopped to analyse why Patric Walker's horoscopes, published in the *Evening Standard* and *The Mail on Sunday*, and syndicated worldwide, made such compulsive reading. But by the time of his death, Walker's name had become a byword for insight and clarity to an estimated billion readers worldwide.

Walker scorned the idea of destiny. He argued instead that life was dominated by cycles, symbolised by the planets' movements, and that his job was to explain how those cycles might influence the lives of individuals born under each star sign. He loathed the idea of anyone being dependent on the stars. The planets were players in the drama; he would describe the set-up, its perils and opportunities. But he emphasised that the outcome depended on the action taken at the right moment. He had little patience with complainers or those who tried to blame the planets for their

own mistakes or lack of courage. Ubiquitous as they now seem, star sign columns are a recent twist in astrology's history. Throughout many ages, astrology has been held in high esteem, and until the scientific revolution during the 1600s, a knowledge of astrology was considered essential for an educated man. But slowly astrology's standing had diminished, and the students drawn to the new scientific subjects in recent centuries had helped to undermine its reputation. Star sign columns began only in 1930, when the astro-

loger Philip Naylor interpreted the horoscope of the newly-born Princess Margaret, for whom he made predictions, and then in the same piece filled out the column with a few lines about what events each sign might expect. The response from readers was overwhelming. But it was the *New York Post* (for which Walker subsequently wrote) which capitalised on the idea later that year by beginning the first regular column.

Walker entered the field almost by accident in the 1960s, when astrology was at a low ebb in public opinion, often associated with fortune

telling. He met his teacher, Helene Hoskins — "Celeste" on *Queen* (later *Harpers & Queen*) magazine — at a London dinner party in 1960. When asked his star sign, he gave her short shrift but, undeterred, Hoskins extracted his birthdate from him, and told him that however on-top-of-the-world he was feeling now, he would soon need help. A whisky-drinking American, Hoskins had an international assortment of clients who forgave her breathtaking frankness because of the uncannily accurate nature of her pronouncements. Such was the case in this instance. Walker underwent a severe crisis soon afterwards, and turned to Hoskins.

Patric William Walker was born a Libran in Hackensack, New Jersey. His parents, originally from Yorkshire, returned to Whitley when he was four, and Patric grew up in a large Roman Catholic family. He was educated at a grammar school in Whitley, and the early-morning habits established as an altar boy stayed with him all his life.

He had several unsuccessful careers after National Service before meeting his destiny in the form of Mrs Hoskins — waiter, property developer and barman. He studied with her for six years and, to the astrologically educated eye, that rigorous training was obvious. In the late 1960s he began a column in the glossy magazine *Now*, and in 1974, after Hoskins died, Walker



took over as "Celeste". When questioned about his sometimes alarmingly dark point of view in the column, Walker said "that's not me — it's her, still writing them". There followed a stint on the *Mirror* before Walker joined Associated Newspapers in 1976, where he worked for the *Evening Standard* and later, when it was launched in 1982, the *Mail on Sunday*.

hand the tens of thousands of words a week required by his columns.

Walker regularly turned down bids by wealthy would-be patrons for private consultations, but performing talent always turned his head. Although he was a private man himself — he disliked being photographed or interviewed intensely, for instance — he loved the theatre and opera, and he counted John Lennon and Elton John among his friends. His fascination with America developed through a relationship with an American television actor.

Walker battled with both food and drink addiction, and while he was capable of extraordinary generosity towards friends, he also had a reclusive streak. Although he kept a flat in London, his real home since the early 1980s had been at Lindos, on Rhodes. He loved village life and sailing, and in 1991, when he semi-retired, he said that his intention was "to sail more — while I still can".

It was while on a sailing trip that he contracted the salmonella, that led, eventually, to his death. But in some ways he had predicted it. Asked whether the planets had indicated this bout of ill health, Walker said that Saturn, the planet he referred to as the grim reaper, was crucially positioned; according to astrologers, on Sunday, it joined the Moon in his birth chart, and called Walker home. He remained a bachelor.

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11. The Dower House, Carlton on Trent, Nottinghamshire (St. Peter's Park). 0171-823 28 38

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- 1 Don't use brilliant white paint. Georgian whites were creamy and often mixed with a little ochre or black.
- 2 Don't paint skirting boards white. They were nearly always painted chocolate brown, as dark colours don't show scuff marks.
- 3 Don't paint railings black. They were usually grey or green.
- 4 Don't use elaborate mouldings or grand chimney pieces on the top floors. The higher you go, the plainer the mouldings.
- 5 Don't paint cornice mouldings white like the ceiling, but the colour of the walls below.
- 6 Don't strip wooden wall panelling and internal doors. Wood was only left bare if it was oak or mahogany.
- 7 Don't use brass door furniture. Black painted iron was invariably used.
- 8 Don't use chandeliers to light a room. These were not widely used until the advent of gas lighting in the early 19th century.
- 9 Never use cement. It's too hard for brick or stone and can cause the wall to fracture and decay.
- 10 Don't paint stucco white or the pale shades often seen today. Windows in the context of stucco should not be painted white, but brown or another dark colour.

The Old Rectory, Harpsden: asking price about £1.75m

□ **The Old Rectory.**
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□ **Cagebrook House.**
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☐ **Morocco House.**
Bayards Cove, Dartmouth.
Devon (Marchand Peris,
01548 857588)
Situated by an attractive cob-
bled quay. Includes three
double bedrooms, bathroom,
dining room, kitchen, utility

□ **The Dower House.**
Carlton on Trent.
Nottinghamshire (Strutt
& Parker. 0171-523 2899)
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the River Trent. Includes five
bedrooms, three bathrooms,
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Cagebrook House, Eaton Bishop: on sale for about £750,000

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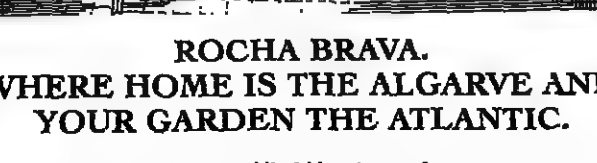
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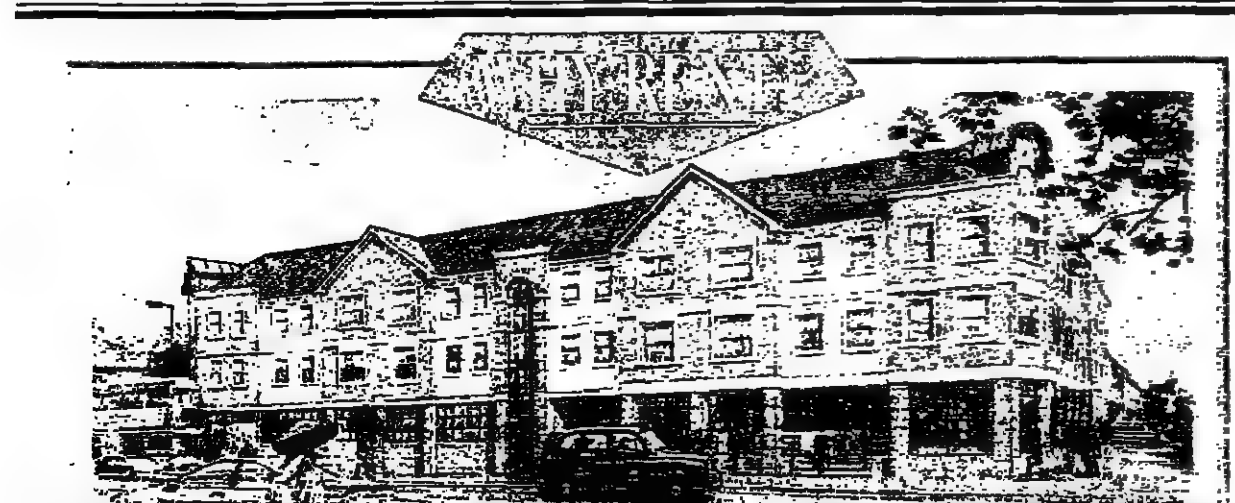
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Phone line that should break up

Never can so many headlines have splashed the news of something that was going to happen anyway. It was utterly predictable that the ban that keeps British Telecom out of broadcast entertainment (to protect cable television) was going to be lifted by 2001. So what in fact has Tony Blair promised Sir Iain Vallance? That in some cable franchise areas, the ban on BT may be lifted by 1997 or 1998. Big deal.

Many have noticed that BT is offering peanuts for this long-sought concession: free connection of schools, libraries and hospitals to a broadband network. That gesture will cost BT very little and will not prevent it from sending these worthy institutions the bill for whatever use they make of the line. Anybody with a mobile telephone will know what a money trap cheap connection can be.

Less noticed has been the way the deal — or whatever it is —

throws away Labour's opportunity to create more competition in local communications networks. Don't Mr Blair and his sidekicks read the papers? They claim to have found a market solution to the information superhighway. But the market solution is to break up telecommunications giants, not to strengthen them.

The Japanese Government is now wrestling with the question. Should it break up its own NTT, the world's biggest telecommunications company? In the United States, the world's second biggest telecom giant, AT&T, has just decided — voluntarily, in the interests of agility — to split itself into three parts. Eleven years ago a federal court broke up the unitary AT&T — then the kind of monolith

that BT remains today — into regional parts. Even dismantled, the parts grew to be giants in their own right, ready to become the kind of marauding American investor that Lord Tebbit sinisterly sees buying up British cable companies.

BT is too big. It is the fifth largest telecommunications utility in the world. Last year (ended in March) its revenues were nearly £14 billion. It can clobber its supposed rivals, the cable companies, by cutting its telephone rates so that theirs do not look like such a bargain. BT, even broken up — either into regional chunks or into separate companies for services and network — would perform very well against the newcomers. Besides, burying wires in the



BRENDA MADDOX

ground may not be the road to the future. The world-wide conference, Telecom 95, just ended in Geneva, suggested that many local telephone calls in future will go through the air, not through wires. A big national wired grid may not be as essential as once thought.

What's all this got to do with media? Everything. What BT wants are the profits from selling a film service — tonight's movie — to a mass audience over the telephone lines. No reason why BT shouldn't provide this. But it shouldn't have its iron grip over our local and international telephone calls as well.

Few things separate us from the continent more than the attitude toward the unclothed body. That the nudes start at Calais will become clear in a few weeks, when the Independent Television Commission publishes the results of its investigation into nudity in television advertisements. Although opinions range widely, from the puritanical prude

to the proselytising naturalist, there seems to be a solid British bedrock of embarrassment, especially in mixed-generation groups, at an exposure of flesh which makes the European family yawn.

The ITC research is expected to show that tolerance is higher when nudity is relevant to the product sold. And it will probably confirm again that sad old truth — that the naked female is more acceptable than the naked male. What set the whole study in motion was the barrage of complaints drawn by the sight — after the 9pm watershed — of a single female nipple in the advertisement for Neutria shower gel. (The manner of soaping was considered unnecessarily sexual by some viewers, the advertisement itself seen as opening the

doors to unacceptable European standards.)

All this concern may come as a surprise to those who thought all barriers were down on the home screen. After all, ITV recently showed *Basic Instinct*, with the knickerless Sharon Stone and Michael Douglas (the latter shot tastefully but comically from the scrappy rear). But the ITC investigation was undertaken on the principle that advertisements merit special regulatory attention because commercials take viewers unaware.

Some of us, however, can still be taken unawares even in classic family entertainment. Why must we be subjected to so much heaving flesh in *Pride and Prejudice*? Every week, I expect to see at least one, if not two nipples, pop out from the expansive cleavage of the Bennet sisters. Surely girls in Jane Austen's time did not go to country balls dressed up as if they were selling Wonderbras?

Alexandra Frean reports on pressure on producers to present disabled people positively

Ready, willing, disabled

People with disabilities are grossly under-represented in the media and are too often portrayed on television and in films as pitiable characters, evil forces, social outcasts or figures of fun. So says One in Eight, a new group launched to improve the media's representation of disabled people.

If you think this is an exaggeration, try to remember the last James Bond film you saw in which the "baddy" did not have a disability or physical impairment, or the last street scene in a television drama which included someone who just happened to be passing by in a wheelchair. Or try to name more than one disabled role model in television popular drama. There have not been many since Raymond Burr rolled onto television screens in the late Sixties, playing a San Francisco detective in a wheelchair in *A Man Called Horse*.

Charles Denton, head of drama at the BBC and a founder member of One in Eight, thinks that such things matter. According to Denton, seven million people in the United Kingdom — or one in eight of the population — have some sort of disability. He believes that as television dramatists and film-makers are gradually trying to improve

the representation of so-called minority groups such as women, black people and homosexuals, the next step towards creating a fairer and more accurate representation of society will be through integrating disabled people into their work.

He says: "A lot of people get quite embarrassed by the idea of disability because they are not familiar with it. Children sometimes regard disabled people as curious because they don't often see them. I am not speaking on behalf of the BBC, but I will be trying to use my position mercilessly to raise awareness of disability. I want to include disabled people on television drama as a natural part of everyday life and not as a problem or a concession to political correctness."

Richard Rieser, another founder member of One in Eight and chairman of the disability campaign group Integration Alliance, acknowledges that negative stereotypes of disabled people are nothing new. They date back to the concept of the body beautiful extolled by ancient Greek and Roman philosophers. In English literature, Shakespeare's *Richard III* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* equated disability with sinister or evil people. The imagery

Dustin Hoffman as Captain Hook in *Hook*, reinforcing stereotypes of disability

persists in the late 20th century in films from *Dr Strangelove* and *Dr No* to *A Nightmare on Elm Street*.

Dustin Hoffman's portrayal of Hook, in Steven Spielberg's 1991 film based on J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, was far more frightening than the character in the original book. Rieser says, "Hoffman's Hook even

had overtones of child abuse," he adds.

The film *Born on the Fourth of July*, starring Tom Cruise as a disabled Vietnam war veteran, suggested that disabled people were incapable of having a worthwhile relationship. Rieser says, while on television, the recent BBC sitcom *The Vicar of Dibley*, starring Dawn French, made a joke about blind people.

Even advertisements for charities can reinforce negative images of disability either through the "super-cripple/triumph over tragedy" stereotype or by portraying disabled people as pitiful. A recent advertisement by the British Diabetic Association, for example, described a ten-year-old girl as living "under the shadow of diabetes".

Rieser has discussed the issue with BBC producers and One in Eight now plans to run training sessions with other producers, writers and directors. The group has also enlisted the support of leading

actors, including Lindsay Duncan, Jane Horrocks, William Hurt, Alan Rickman, Sir Ian McKellen, Timothy Spall, and Alan Cumming.

Richard Broke, a BBC drama producer who is himself in a wheelchair, says that American drama producers lead the way in integrating disability into popular fiction. "LA Law frequently shows jurors in wheelchairs. In a British programme, if you see someone in a wheelchair, you know that there has to be a story in it and in the next scene they will probably get run over by a lorry."

One in Eight can expect resistance from some programme makers, however. Corrine Hollingsworth, executive producer of *EastEnders*, has already put on the record her opposition to suggestions from what she calls "people in ivory towers" on how best to recreate everyday life in a way that is entertaining.

Sick man of health insurance revives

PPP has put £20m into a TV relaunch, reports Alan Mitchell

Pick up any broadsheet newspaper this week and you're likely to find a long, wordy advertisement from Bupa touting the broad range of its services. It is not Bupa's normal style but it had to move fast. Arch-rival Private Patients Plan begins a £20 million marketing campaign this week and something had to be done to neutralise its effect.

For Private Patients Plan it is make or break time. The public's perception of it as a common-or-garden insurance company has become its "ball and chain", declares new chief executive Peter Owen, a former British Airways executive.

His goal? To emulate the AA and RAC's achievement in motoring: turning basic insurance into an "added value" service that consumers positively appreciate. Only that way can the industry extend its appeal beyond the still small 11 per cent of UK citizens who buy health insurance. Andy Brown, marketing director, says: "We want to create a brand that 'owns' healthcare. It is a classic marketing challenge to redefine the market."

And to redefine the company: a complete corporate makeover, including an organisational restructuring, a new management team, a culture change programme, a new name (PPP healthcare) and a new corporate logo lie behind its first ever TV advertising. There is also a raft of new products and services, including a free, 24-hour medical information helpline, new teams of multi-skilled personal advisers to answer all customer queries in a single call, and new packages aimed at previously neglected groups such as youngish, healthy men and women.

Chris Webster, PPP healthcare's head of brand marketing, says: "In one fell swoop we have moved from being an inward-looking insurance company to a customer-facing organisation." Marketing-speak at its worst? Perhaps. But the company desperately needs to change. Its previously low-key marketing means that nearly one in five of its own customers aren't even aware it exists, even when presented with its name.

A recent example of this negative awareness: one corporate PPP client of 16 years boasted Bupa cover as a perk

ment. "People need healthcare advice and you can't expect an insurance company to give that advice. People are prepared to spend more to keep themselves well."

Among the new services he is testing are an over-the-phone medical advice service for people who "do not have time to be ill", and a health programme monitored by a personal adviser following up on screening tests to tackle dietary, stress or exercise issues.

Two thirds of the market is still accounted for by the corporate sector and demand for private healthcare is driven by two factors: price, and the number of people in senior management, says William Laing, of market analysts Laing & Buisson. Despite the well-publicised travails of the NHS, predicted market growth has not materialised.



PPP's first TV commercials emphasise a personal touch

Battle of the spins washes Blair whiter

The political parties' annual conferences can be a week-long party political broadcast or a week of public bloodletting. Although the party faithful will applaud their leaders the real audience is the voters outside the hall. They receive their information through newspapers, TV and radio — which can prove more uncooperative and unpredictable than the assembled activists.

There is more pressure on the parties' spin doctors at conference time than at any other to get the best media coverage. Labour pulled off a neat public relations coup at the start of the Liberal Democrat conference with an interview in this paper in which Tony Blair offered the Lib-Dems some form of electoral co-operation. The upset this caused the Lib-Dems illustrates how vulnerable and exposed a political party is during its conference.

But in a rare example of political bad karma for Labour, Mr Blair's keynote speech, still awkwardly positioned at the beginning of the conference, was upstaged by the O.J. Simpson verdict. Despite clumsy entreaties by Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, ITN ran the Blair speech second on *News at Ten*. The BBC's Sir and Nine O'Clock News led with the speech (in keeping with their more heavyweight style) but fiercely denied giving in to pressure from Mr Campbell. The Corporation's Director-General, John Birt, condemned Mr Campbell's attempts as "crass and inappropriate".

But Simon Brooke says conferences are only the beginning

The warning was clearly a shot across Tony Blair's spin doctors' bows for this week. Press coverage of the Blair speech was, however, very positive even from the traditional Tory press: "inspirational", said the *London Evening Standard* while *The Sun* praised it as "the most remarkable ever made at a Labour conference".

A senior Tory source ruefully congratulated Labour's spin doctors on Labour's generally favourable coverage but pointed out that the conference was very successful (almost uniquely the leadership won every card vote) and added: "It's always easier to spin good news."

Similarly, the Tories had planned to provide their conference news team with plenty of meat to throw to the pack with a series of positive government initiatives during the week. However, Labour engineered another very successful spoiler by persuading former minister Alan Howard to announce his defection on the vital Sunday before the conference. Once again, ministers fielded on all the main Sunday programmes to push their own individual positive messages were forced on the defensive. But the Tories

hope that small technical improvements may help to some degree, for example they have moved the Prime Minister's speech to Friday morning to enable BBC1, not BBC2, to cover it live and so double its audience.

The parties have begun to expand their press offices in preparation for the next election. The Tories and Labour have made changes at the top with the appointment of new communications chiefs.

Hugh Colver, formerly head of information at the Ministry of Defence and British Aerospace, recently became the Conservative Party's director of communications, and Labour headhunted Joy Johnson from her post as BBC's Westminster news editor, a role which included managing the coverage of the party conferences. This year, the Lib-Dems' Judith Fryer experienced her first year as party spin doctor, too.

ITV covets classic adaptations

ALTHOUGH its popular programmes continue to dominate the television ratings charts, ITV is beginning to look jealously at the audience delivered by the BBC's classic drama adaptations writes Alexandra Frean.

The first episode of BBC1's latest offering, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, attracted an impressive 9.5 million viewers. When you add in the figures from the repeat showing of the episode on BBC2, the audience rose to more than 11 million.

In an attempt to imitate this success and to stifle growing criticism from advertisers who want a little variety from the successful middle-brow popular dramas (*Soldier Soldier*, *London's Burning*, *The Bill*) that the channel churns out so well, ITV has now poached the team behind *Pride and Prejudice* to produce a two-hour film version of Jane Austen's *Emma* for screening next year.

Although it holds the top four places in our chart, ITV is still not performing quite as well as last year, according to an analysis by CIA Mediawatch, the media buying agency. The channel's highest rating programme in our chart, *Heartbeat*, attracted 16.3 million viewers — one million fewer than the highest rating programme on ITV for the same week a year ago, *Coronation Street*, which had 17.3 million viewers on September 19 1994.

THE TIMES TOP 20: DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Audience (millions)
1 Heartbeat	Sun 24	19.30	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Series	18.3
2 Coronation Street	Mon 18	19.29	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	18.0
3 London's Burning	Sun 24	21.04	ITV	LWT	Series	14.1
4 Soldier Soldier	Tue 19	21.01	ITV	Central Television	Series	13.9
5 Casualty	Sat 23	20.08	BBC1	BBC	Series	13.8
6 EastEnders	Tue 19	19.31	BBC1	BBC	Soap	13.7
7 The Bill	Fri 22	20.01	ITV	Thames Television	Series	11.3
8 Emmerdale	Tue 19	19.00	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Soap	10.4
9 Pride and Prejudice	Sun 24	21.00	BBC1	BBC/A & E Network	Series	9.5
10 Neighbours	Mon 18	17.37	BBC1	Grundy Int Ops Ltd	Soap	8.3
11 Dangerfield	Fri 22	21.34	BBC1	BBC	Series	8.2
12 Class Act	Tue 19	20.33	ITV	Cinema Verity	Series	8.0
13 Home And Away	Mon 18	18.01	ITV	Seven Network Australia	Soap	7.9
14 Medics	Fri 22	21.00	ITV	Granada Television	Series	7.7
15 Backup	Thu 21	21.34	BBC1	BBC	Series	7.0
16 The X-Files	Mon 18	21.02	BBC2	Ten Thirteen/20th Century Fox	Series	6.6
17 Due South	Tue 19	20.02	BBC1	Alliance Communications	Series	6.3
18 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman	Sun 24	18.36	ITV	CBS/Sullivan Company	Series	6.1
19 Brookside	Tue 19	20.31	CH4	Brookside Productions	Soap	4.5
20 Baywatch	Sat 23	17.25	ITV	Tower 12/Baywatch Prod Co	Series	4.0

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THE TIMES/DILLONS DEBATE

Trust: the secret of economic success?

THE most important issue facing industrial democracies is economic competitiveness. What makes some countries more successful than others? Are some nations blessed with the Midas touch? Francis Fukuyama, who challenged the political and historical establishment with his controversial *The End of History and the Last Man*, is back. His latest book, *Trust: The Social Virtues and the Creation of Prosperity*, targets the world of business and global trade. He will argue at this Times/Dillons debate that trust between business people is the secret of economic success. A country's social and cultural characteristics determine its prosperity. Philosophers John Gray and Roger Scruton will debate this bold thesis with Fukuyama.

Chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, the debate is on Wednesday October 18 at Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1, at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10, which includes £2 off Fukuyama's book, are available by telephoning 0121-703 8113/8114, by faxing the coupon below on 0121-703 8109, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to Dillons Marketing, Royal House, Prince's Gate, Homer Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3SA.

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NEWS

Portillo leads Tory EU onslaught

Michael Portillo reclaimed the leadership of the Tory Right with an outspoken attack on Brussels, endorsed by the Prime Minister, which confirmed that the Conservatives will play the Euro-sceptic card at the next general election.

The Defence Secretary won ecstatic acclaim at the party conference for an unashamedly nationalist speech in which he roamed beyond his ministerial brief to defend British sovereignty and call on schools to teach the real history of heroes and bravery. Pages 1, 6, 7, 16, 17

Nanny tells of assault by Wests

Rosemary and Frederick West abducted a teenage hitchhiker and subjected her to a protracted and violent sex ordeal, occasionally breaking off to give her cups of tea. Winchester Crown Court was told. Pages 1, 3

Workfare expansion

John Major is set to announce an expansion of workfare-style schemes to curb long-term unemployment and to ease the rising social security bill. Page 1

Horse professor

Cambridge University is to unite turf and gown by appointing the first professor of race-horse breeding. Dr Twink Allen, an expert in horse fertility, will use the chair to rear a new generation of champion racers. Pages 1, 17

Schools pledge

Headmasters of leading independent schools promised to open their doors to more pupils from low-income families, whichever party wins the next general election. Page 2

Making history

An American company director made legal history when she became the first witness to give evidence to an industrial tribunal via a transatlantic satellite link. Page 2

Model boycott

Top fashion models have been urged not to appear in some best-selling women's magazines because of their erotic photography and the obsession with sex in certain titles. Page 4

WPCs sold drugs

Two policewomen who admitted possessing and supplying drugs were jailed. Page 5

Feminists deplore life of British bee

America's political correctness campaigners have a new heroine: a female British bee. A scientific journal has presented her as a classic animal victim of sexual harassment. She is constantly pestered for sex by her male partner, a small but energetic specimen, but at the same time must find the family home, look after the young and go out to work. Page 12

Cut-price opera

An impresario is to stage "a people's opera" at the Albert Hall, with top tickets cheaper than those at the Royal Opera House, and will keep the cost down by ignoring union rules on manning. Page 8

Space missions at risk

Scores of space missions, including one to Mercury, are at risk because Britain wants to make deep cuts in Europe's space science budget. Page 10

Strike halts France

A pay strike by five million public-sector workers paralysed much of France in the most aggressive display of union might for at least a decade. Page 11

PLO thwarts release

Israel's attempt to release nearly 1,000 Palestinian prisoners degenerated into chaos as the Palestine Liberation Organisation said that hundreds would refuse to leave. Page 12

Race tensions rise

Washington is bracing itself for the most significant black power march in decades amid fears that the event could ignite further racial tension in the wake of the O.J. Simpson trial. Page 12

Power fuels ceasefire

The Bosnia ceasefire was set to take effect at 12.01am today after gas and electricity began to trickle into the capital. Page 13



Post office staff marching through Paris yesterday as part of a one-day pay strike by millions of public-sector workers. Page 11

BUSINESS

Banking: Directors of the TSB approved a £5 billion takeover by Lloyds Bank. Page 25

Legal bloc: Bondholders who lost more than £50 million in the Barings collapse failed in their application to challenge the legal right of the Serious Fraud Office to take over the bondholders' private prosecution and then bring it to a halt. Page 25

Job: Index, the high street catalogue chain owned by Littlewoods, is to create 500 jobs in a £29 million expansion. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 50.2 points to close at 3460.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.6 to 84.5 after a fall from \$1.5848 to \$1.5776 and from DM2.2369 to DM2.2366. Page 28

SPORT

Football: England's match in Norway is more an occasion for them to discover a functional style away from home than to avenge a World Cup defeat. Page 48

Rugby league: Wales have escaped punishment for mistakenly fielding one more than the four permitted substitutes in their World Cup match against France. Page 48

Tennis: Steffi Graf has withdrawn from the Brighton tournament this month and is unlikely to play again until a tournament in Philadelphia in November. Page 48

Racing: Declan Murphy made a winning return 17 months after a fall that nearly cost him his life, riding Jibberon to victory in the Annual Flat v Jump Jockeys Challenge at Chepstow. Pages 43, 48

Establishment exposed: It was not simply homosexuality that John Osborne was writing about in his 1965 play *A Patriot for Me*. He was actually taking pot shots at England. Page 25

A smile on his face: Tommy Steele works hard to make sure that everyone has a good time at his new West End song-and-dance extravaganza, which is called *What a Show!* Page 25

Young at Art: Meet the hard-working choristers of *Carlsie*, the boys who sing for 10p a service. But girls are excluded. Page 36

Dutch treat: Amsterdam is dazzled by every theatrical trick in the book in Peter Stein's new staging of Schoenberg's opera *Moses und Aron*. Page 37

Tale of two ambassadors: Julia Llewellyn Smith contrasts the life and times of Britain's envoys to Paris and Beirut. Page 15

Fashion: Iain R. Webb reports from Milan on the simple lines in next spring's wardrobe. Page 14

Period dramas: In our desire to restore Georgian architecture we may be removing historical character. Page 21

Ready, willing, disabled: One in eight aims to counter the media's negative representation of disabled people. Page 23

Modern tradition: The 400-year-old Tonbridge boys' school is undergoing a £20 million development programme. Pages 32, 33

Capitol Hill's cuts in the budget for gathering statistics could cost government, business and workers big bucks later. In the information age, decision makers cannot afford to be left in the dark. — *USA Today*

As long as this country runs big budget deficits financed by foreign borrowing, it will continue to need exchange rates that, unfortunately, produce big trade deficits. — *The Washington Post*

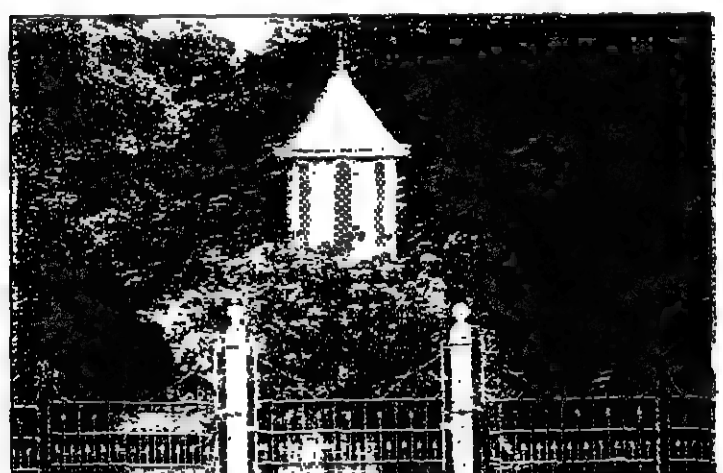
IN THE TIMES.

TRAVEL NEWS

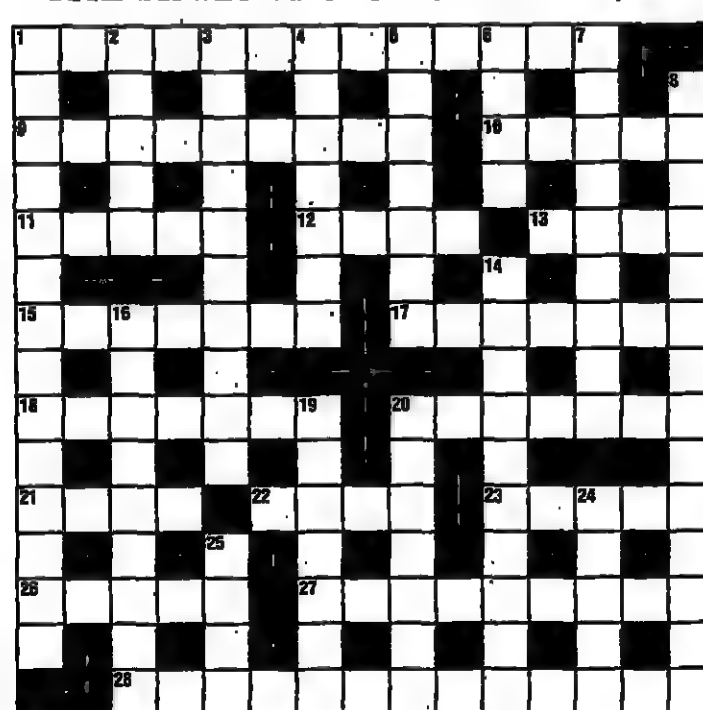
No hidden extras and nothing more to pay: are all-inclusive holidays better value?

BOOKS

Arthur Miller's new novel runs to only 50 pages, but Bernard Levin is captivated



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,983



- ACROSS**
- 1 Originally thinkers had to guess (4,2,3,4).
 - 9 I have an adverse effect on one state, all the same (9).
 - 10 Hidden drawback in contract (5).
 - 11 Speak of value ... (5).
 - 12 ... speak of fine food (4).
 - 13 Possibly 6 fish (4).
 - 15 In ten chance the leaders get knocked out (7).
 - 18 The spider and the fly (7).
 - 20 Working, rednecks what's overlooked (7).
 - 21 Free party given by international organisation ... (4).
 - 22 ... a party that's theatrical (4).
 - 23 "Gönderlärung" features in such a vocabulary (5).
 - 26 Young man, one who is under instruction? (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Successful bowler may get moving (4,4,6).
 - 2 Put up with love — a repertory theatre ... (5).
 - 3 ... might be so described, all things considered (2,3,5).
 - 4 Cur Bar's rent — that's diplomatic (7).
 - 5 Add to the confusion in general (7).
 - 6 The leaders in abandoned race could have finished (4).
 - 7 Recruiting officer supplying gear and food, accommodating an indefinite number (9).
 - 8 Author in French city died surrounded by birds (7,7).
 - 14 Rabbi cheers almost everybody up (10).
 - 16 Periods devoted to booze and marijuana, where vision is impaired (5,4).
 - 19 Man who is practical about a roll (7).
 - 20 I am over the hill, in a cul-de-sac (7).
 - 24 Opposed to a road being put up for sale (5).
 - 25 Fog makes you puff, short of breath initially (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,982

PLANT LEVERAGE
A D R E T O A
GRADLESONG MILK
V R B N O A L
CAMELLIA RANGID
S E R O V
DENS DRUMHEAD
R E C O S I N
A S T E R I O D L A T E
T R A A L
AMAKEN VAGABOND
B U I T L I O
P I N K C O N G A L I O
L R M C A L G
B E R T I B E R T I M A Y H E M

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Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of London	702
South East	703
West of London	704
North East	705
North West	706
Yorkshire	707
West Midlands	708
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AA ROADWATCH

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Looking back at
John Osborne's
angry patriotism

Tonbridge School
chapel rises
from the ashes

Papua's hopes
resting on
Lam's shoulders

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11 1995

Shares dive on Wall St losses

BY MICHAEL CLARK AND RICHARD THOMSON

SHARE prices on the London stock market and across Europe fell sharply in the wake of further heavy losses on Wall Street. In London, the FTSE 100 index tumbled almost 70 points at one stage, before ending 50.2 down at 3,406.1 as more than £1 billion was wiped from the value of Britain's publicly quoted companies.

It was prompted by a sharp sell-off in technology stocks in New York, triggered by disappointing third-quarter figures from Motorola and growing concern over the state of the economy. Shares went into free-fall minutes after the mar-

ket opened, forcing the New York Stock Exchange to activate the circuit breakers and call a halt to program trading. The Dow Jones industrial average dived more than 60 points before virtually halving the fall around midday to 34 points at 4,692.62. This latest setback followed a 43-point fall on Monday.

Shares of leading computer companies, such as IBM, Novell, Intel, Microsoft and Texas Instruments, were worst hit in a move that some analysts believe is the beginning of the long-awaited sell-off among high technology shares.

The sector has enjoyed a spectacular performance this year, with increases of more



than 100 per cent in some companies' share prices. The gloom was deepened by the expectation of poor results in the third-quarter reporting season, which starts this week. Dealers believe lacklustre results may indicate a general slowdown in the US economy into next year. Any sign of weakness from key companies is likely to trigger a further stock market slide.

Ian Harnett, chief UK economist at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, said: "Other European markets have also fallen. Back in June, the index was below 3,300. It has risen sharply since then and some consolidation was inevitable."

"This looks like a short-term correction rather than a fundamental problem. It's certainly not a repeat of the stock market crash of 1987."

By the close of business yesterday, a total of 828 million shares had changed hands with institutional selling described as light. The highest level of corporate activity was provided a prop to the London market, and means that fund managers have been reluctant to sell into it.

German shares ended sharply lower. The 30-share Dax index ended floor dealing 29.92 points down at 2,138.77.

A firmer dollar has done little to help to underpin German shares and traders said any dollar weakness could accelerate selling pressure from the current level, the lowest since July.

"The market is very volatile and is giving few indications on where it wants to go, other than lower," said Andreas Gaertner, of Société Générale in Frankfurt.

French shares also finished down but well off their session lows as the bourse tracked a recovery in bond prices. The CAC-40 index closed 7.75 down at 1,771.96, after recovering from 1,755.39.

□ The dollar, bounced back after the slump in Wall Street prices ran out of steam, near the end of the London day, and foreign exchange dealers grew fearful of central bank intervention to prevent the US currency weakening further.

The pound eased off its early highs against the major currencies, but ended at 84.5 on its Bank of England trade-weighted index, down only 0.1 from Monday.

SFO wins Leeson argument

BONDHOLDERS who lost more than £50 million in the Barings collapse yesterday failed in their application to challenge the legal right of the Serious Fraud Office to pick up the bondholders' private prosecution and then crush it (Robert Miller writes).

The City of London Magistrates Court had earlier granted the Barings Perpetual Noteholders Action Group eight summonses alleging false accounting and obtaining money by deception against Nick Leeson, the trader blamed for the £860 million Barings failure.

The SFO, which has consistently maintained that Singapore is the proper jurisdiction for Mr Leeson's trial, yesterday won its argument that it was not an abuse of process to drop the private action.

David Harrel of S J Berwin, the bondholders' solicitor, said: "The speed with which the authorities have tried to get rid of this case... has given investors the feeling that their voice is not being heard." The case was adjourned until tomorrow.

Pennington, page 27

Chairman will make over £1.5m from deal



Sir Nicholas Goodison, the TSB chairman, leaving Lombard Street, London, for last night's board meeting to discuss the Lloyds takeover offer

House prices falling

By ROBERT MILLER

THE latest survey of house prices published today will paint a gloomy picture of the housing market. Prices across all regions are now 2.6 per cent lower than they were in the third quarter of last year, according to the Halifax Building Society.

The latest quarterly survey from Britain's biggest mortgage lender will show that, between the second and third quarters of this year, nine out of the 12 regions recorded house price falls.

The notable exception is Northern Ireland which recorded a quarterly rise of 2.9 per cent, taking the yearly increase to 3.1 per cent. Worst-hit regions include the North, down 2.5 per cent on the quarter and 4.7 per cent on the year, and Yorkshire and Humberside where prices fell 1.1 per cent in the quarter and 3 per cent over the year.

Gary Marsh, of the Halifax, said: "The Chancellor should give a clear indication in his speech to the Conservative Party conference tomorrow that he intends to help the housing market."

Without any official help, Mr Marsh said the housing market would show little, if any, signs of recovery until next spring at the earliest.

Housing hope, page 29

TSB approves £5bn takeover

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TSB directors last night approved a £5 billion takeover by Lloyds Bank. The two sides will spell out how the deal will work later today. TSB customers will be big beneficiaries. They own half the shares after TSB deliberately marketed its shares to customers and employees at the time of flotation in 1986. Half of TSB's one million private shareholders are customers, according to the TSB.

Lloyds offer values TSB's 15 billion shares at 329p each. If shareholders bought at the 100p flotation price, they will make a 229p profit on each share. The agreed deal was arranged by JP Morgan, the US bank, hired by TSB to

work out its options. The two sides have been in talks for several weeks, though they have held conversations with each other for the past five years.

In the flotation the bank also gave 150 shares free to its 29,000 employees. That number has since shrunk to 26,000 and the bank yesterday refused to say how many are still shareholders saying some undoubtedly sold shares after the flotation. Staff are believed to hold about a million shares directly and a further 7.1 million are held on behalf of TSB's 26,000 employees, who take part in the TSB group staff share schemes. A takeover will automatically trigger the exercise of such share options. A TSB spokesman would only say: "A significant minority of our employees participate in a save as you earn scheme and they will benefit from this merger. He defined 'significant majority' as between 30 and 40 per cent.

Under the executive share option scheme the bank's six executive directors will make paper profits of more than £10 million. Peter Ellwood, the chief executive, will make a paper profit of £2 million on his 838,893 share options shown in last year's annual report. Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, will make £1.63 million. Sir Nicholas also owns 60,525 shares, which will be valued at £199,127. Further options are likely to have been granted this year.

City Diary, page 29

Jobs boost as Index expands

By OUR CITY STAFF

INDEX, the high street catalogue chain, is to create 560 new jobs in a £29 million expansion. A new distribution centre will be built at Wednesbury, West Midlands, creating 380 jobs, and three new stores will open in Blackpool, Lancaster and Oldham, each employing 60 staff.

The new distribution centre, costing £14 million, will open in June 1996. The new store in Blackpool will be opened today by Ian Taylor, the industry Minister, who is attending this week's Conservative Party conference in the town. The Lancaster store will open next

week and the Oldham store later this month.

Bob Lancaster, managing director of the Liverpool company, said: "We are making massive investments and creating a large number of jobs in a long term commitment."

The company is part of the giant Littlewoods organisation. It was launched 10 years ago and now has more than 120 stores.

All the stores will create 30 full-time and 30 part-time jobs. Mr Lancaster said: "We are confident in the retail futures of these places and are making a solid investment."

European ruling expected to help cable-TV companies

BT poised for broadcast blow

By EAVY REAGAN

THE European Commission is expected today to announce that telecommunications companies will not be allowed into the broadcast market, dealing a blow to BT's plans to use its vast network to offer live TV services.

Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner in Brussels, is said to have decided that cable-TV companies will be given the right to provide a limited range of telecoms services, including data transmission, beginning in January.

But the Commission directive will grant no extra freedoms to the telecoms companies. They had hoped to gain access to the broadcast market in exchange for the cable companies entering the



Van Miert decision

telecoms market. Mike Corkery, BT's European regulatory manager in Brussels, said: "We are disappointed."

BT got its hopes up earlier this year when the European Parliament argued that the

are strong enough to withstand its entry into entertainment delivery.

Last week BT and the Labour Party reached an "understanding" that BT, if Labour wins the next election, would be allowed early entry into the broadcast market in exchange for wiring up every school, hospital and library to the information superhighway. The cable companies cried foul. They argued that they have invested billions of pounds to create the world's most modern electronic network on the assumption they would be protected from BT for a certain number of years. They also argued that BT can enter the broadcast market by buying cable companies. The company, however, has sold all but one of its cable franchises.

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Top pay sets lead for rest, says CBI

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BIG salary increases for company directors have pushed up the pay expectations of about a third of Britain's workforce, according to new evidence on wages from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

Ministers remain sanguine about pay, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is expected in his speech to the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool tomorrow to cite low earnings growth as part of his confidence about low inflation levels.

But figures from the CBI, to be presented to local business leaders in Nottingham today, suggest that the public dispute over boardroom pay — especially in the privatised utilities — has increased the expectations of bigger wage rises for many in the workforce.

The poll, by Gallup, shows that 32 per cent of the sample

of employees surveyed say that their own pay expectations are higher as a result of the top pay row.

In the CBI's annual pay and performance presentation, which its officials are giving to groups of business leaders around the country, it warns companies that such pressures don't "needlessly derail" decisions on pay this year.

According to the survey, almost two-thirds of both employers and employees are expecting pay awards this year at the same level, or less, than last year.

For the first time, slightly more employees think their pay increases should be determined by individual merit than by the cost of living.

CBI leaders are urging companies to make only "modest" pay awards this year as Britain's labour costs have begun to rise as those of its competitors have started to fall. They argue for a strong link between pay and performance as recommended by the Government-backed CBI committee on top pay, headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer.

The survey found that 41 per cent of employees would accept that some element of their pay could move down if it led to greater job security.

Young people are being used as cheap labour, working for less pay than ten years ago, according to a new report today. The Low Pay Unit (LPU) pressure group says the wages of under-21-year-olds have fallen sharply since 1985 compared to average earnings.

Bharti Patel, LPU deputy director, says: "Young people are getting a raw deal, finding themselves used as cheap labour and with their hopes and aspirations for the future smashed."



Sir Alistair Grant, executive chairman of Argill, will offer trolleys full of incentives to Safeway customers.

Safeway to run loyalty card scheme

ARGYLL GROUP is following in the footsteps of rival Tesco by launching a nationwide loyalty card in its 365 Safeway supermarket stores (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The move is the result of 18 months of trials of various schemes in Safeway stores. Colin Smith, Argill chief executive, said: "We regard our ABC card scheme as the most imaginative on offer."

Sainsbury, which is testing a scheme in about 200 stores, is widely expected to extend its card nationally.

Analysts said Safeway's scheme is more flexible than Tesco's. Whereas Tesco's offer is limited to products in its own stores, Safeway's includes special offers such as a family day out at Alton Towers or a P&O ferry crossing.

Water regulator appeals for more open accounts

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

IAN BYATT, the water regulator, has urged quoted water groups to be more open about the accounts of their regulated utility subsidiaries. Instead of hiding them in group accounts, Mr Byatt said that the new openness should start with the interim results for the six months to September 30, which some companies will issue next month.

Companies do not publicise separate results for their utility subsidiaries, although these must be available for inspection under their licences. Regulated accounts for the year to March 31 are not yet public.

Mr Byatt said companies should explain the basis on

which dividends were paid from the water business to the group. "The water companies should explain what returns they have made in their regulated water businesses and what they intend to do with them."

He said that there was not enough public debate on the profits made in the regulated business. Big publicised dividend rises from utilities would increase pressure for early extra benefits to customers.

Most quoted water groups have diversified into anything from water engineering to solid waste disposal. Future group dividend rises might be funded from these. But Mr

Byatt also wants to ensure that poor returns are not subsidised by water consumers.

In 1992-93, Severn Trent paid an unexplained one-off dividend of £600 million from Severn Trent Water to Severn Trent plc in order to transfer accounting reserves to the parent company. The cash was reinvested.

Publicity for regulated accounts could also help the companies. Salaries and perks for directors of the regulated utility tend to be far lower than for the quoted group, indicating that the rest is paid by shareholders, not consumers.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Building materials firms face 'disaster'

BUILDING material companies said yesterday their industry was facing "disaster", with output collapsing. The warning follows building companies' insistence that recession is gripping the construction industry hard, and came as new figures showed that construction orders fell in August. Looking at the state of trade in its industry, the National Council of Building Material Producers said its results revealed "a picture of disaster". Next year showed few, if any, signs of an upturn in demand. The council said half its member companies surveyed reported falling output, with 78 per cent no longer working at satisfactory capacity levels. It particularly criticised the Government's private finance initiative.

Separately, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors warned that a single currency in Europe could hurt the UK construction industry, with "vast cuts" in capital spending projects needed to enable countries to meet the strict convergence criteria set by the Maastricht treaty. But printing leaders said business in their industry continued to improve, with prospects for the rest of the year looking favourable. In its latest survey, the British Printing Industries Federation said three quarters of the industry was working at or close to full capacity, with employment trends also improving. Though paper and board prices are still rising, the federation said many printers were able to pass on increases in their costs.

Bakyrchik Gold woes

BAKYRCHIK GOLD, which came to the market in 1993 with the promise of mining gold in Kazakhstan, is seeking a wealthy investor to help to boost production. Bakyrchik says technical problems associated with the recovery of gold at the plant have led to a drain on cash resources, which currently stand at only \$9.5 million. The shares fell 37p to 162p. NM Rothschild, the merchant banker, has been appointed to identify an industry investor. This may result in an offer being made for Bakyrchik, the company admits.

St Ives exceeds £35m

MORE magazines on the newstands and an increase in direct-response mail helped St Ives, the specialist printer, to finish its year with a jump in pre-tax profits. St Ives, Britain's largest independent operation, turned in pre-tax profits for the year ending July 28 of £35.5 million. Compared with last year, disregarding 1994's losses on disposals which came to £4.9 million, the profits were 31 per cent ahead. The final dividend was lifted 33 per cent to 6p, making a total of 8.5p, payable on December 4. Tempus, page 28

Walker Greenbank hit

A SLOWDOWN in decorating by homeowners and companies held back Walker Greenbank, the wallcoverings and fabrics group. The company, which saw pre-tax profits for the six months to July 31 edge ahead 3 per cent to £4.2 million, said that consumer and business confidence was weaker than a year ago. Charles Wightman, chief executive, said: "It happened suddenly and was not something we had anticipated." The interim dividend, payable December 12, was maintained at 1.3p.

Receivers in at Bullers

BULLERS, the struggling media services and giftware group, has been put into receivership. Scott Barnes and Maurice Whittall, of Grant Thornton, were appointed administrative receivers yesterday and talks are underway with a number of potential buyers for parts of the business. Trading in shares in Bullers was suspended on October 3. In 1994 the company incurred pre-tax losses of £394,000 on turnover of £4.37 million. Creditors, including banks, are owed about £4.5 million.

NBA abolition attacked

GERMAN publishers attacked Britain yesterday for dropping the price-fixing Net Book Agreement, saying the move could affect booksellers throughout the European Union. Roland Ulmer, chairman of the German Publishers Association, speaking at the opening of the world's largest book fair in Frankfurt, condemned the move, which has provoked a flurry of anti-price books, adding that it "kills booksellers and publishers in other EU countries with great alarm". He said similar systems were now under threat.

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Dutch hope to engineer Wiltshier merger in UK

BALLAST NEDAM, the Dutch construction and civil engineering group, is in talks with Wiltshier, of Britain, aimed at merging their UK activities (Martin Barrow writes).

Talks are underway between Ballast, which was sold by British Aerospace in 1993, and Harmondsworth (Mid-

1988, Wiltshier's turnover is expected to be £250 million this year. The company employs 1,450 people and operates from nine regional offices. Ballast's UK subsidiary, Ballast Nedam Construction, has annual turnover of £100 million with seven regional offices and 500 staff.

Wiltshier's interests include general contracting, design and management, plant hire and housing.

If Napoleon had better information, he might not have met his Waterloo.



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D A T A S T R E A M
IN DEPTH · IN CONTEXT · INTERNATIONAL

□ SFO rides roughshod over Barings victims □ Water regulation here to stay □ Falling out of love with high-tech shares

Bondholders out of bounds

AT FIRST glance, it would seem an affront to natural justice for the Serious Fraud Office to step in, take over and then firmly close the private prosecution brought by the Barings bondholders against Nick Leeson, the clear architect of their £50 million-plus losses.

The bondholders have certainly argued this strongly enough up to now, but if the SFO is successful in finally burying the case tomorrow, the bondholders accept that they cannot hope for much joy through the judicial appeal process. The SFO has been able to ride roughshod over their wishes so far because as the prosecuting authority it has the final say over whether such a case can be brought.

This principle is enshrined in the Criminal Justice Act as a precaution against any frivolous or downright mischievous criminal action brought against an individual. The great and the good have, in the past, shown a willingness to use the civil law to pursue their vendettas; they should hardly be allowed to extend their activities to the criminal courts.

The Barings bondholders, together with the preference shareholders, are the only identifiable victims. Bondholders want their man in a London court because a Leeson languishing in Ford Open Prison would be

more accessible for their subsequent civil action against the underwriters of the bonds, namely Cazenove, Hoare Govett and BZW.

The magistrate has thrown out their action, and the SFO is now free to drop the case once Leeson's lawyers have had their say in court.

Leeson's actions, in applying for further funds from London, were carried out physically on Singaporean soil. The bondholders have argued that these were minor crimes with no victims there, whereas the true fraud took place in London, and there is enough evidence and sufficient witnesses to support criminal action here.

There is no doubt that rising international flows of capital are blurring the exact locations where financial crime takes place, because such crimes must often be committed across national boundaries.

Singapore is keen to retain jurisdiction because it wants to emphasise the growing supremacy of its own stock market in the Far East by making sure that actions that nearly brought trad-

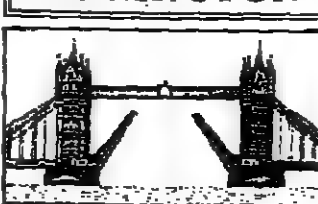
ing to a halt there are seen to be dealt with on home territory. The German authorities, who last week cleared Leeson for take-off back to Singapore only to see his extradition become bogged down in a morass of appeals, have expressed surprise that the SFO has not made its own plea to have him shipped to London.

The SFO has devoted a great deal of effort to ensuring that Mr Leeson does his time in Changi. His representatives in court yesterday were keen to show a spirit of international co-operation with Singapore. The trouble is, that spirit has not always been reciprocated.

Through a glass, clearly

WATER companies think that the public willfully misunderstands them and should therefore be given only carefully processed information. Statutory accounts of the regulated business do not come in that category, not least because they are mostly based on current cost accounting. Accounts of the

PENNINGTON



quoted groups are written in historic costs, often producing quite different numbers.

Keep the public in the dark and you avoid a lot of tedious questions, such as why regulated water utilities paid hundreds of millions in dividends to their parent groups, merely in order to shift the accounting reserves to group level. Secrecy also helps pay for consultants and analysts, who scour "secret" regulated accounts and interpret their meaning to the City.

Whatever happens to the Government's regime of regulatory socialism in gas, electricity and telecommunications — and don't wait for it to wither away in five years — regulation of monopoly water companies is here to stay. If companies

want to keep the price cap system, they had better learn to live with transparency. Ian Byatt's gentle insistence that they publish separate utility results should be to their advantage.

If diversification funds strong real dividend growth, boards need to explain that this largesse is not coming from the utility business. If extra water dividends make good failures in other businesses, investors need to know. If the utility is delivering more than expected, customers will want a cut earlier than the five-year review.

Had the companies been smarter, they might have avoided most of the boardroom "fat-cat" controversy. Utility accounts would have shown that most of the fat comes from investors in the quoted group, not from payments by consumers to directors of the regulated business.

Mr Byatt is also looking ahead. Shortly, Northumbrian Water is at last likely to face a bid from Lyonnaise. More could follow. As electricity bosses have noticed, the great advantages of being taken over is that your

activities can be hidden in the twilight world of subsidiaries. Regulators should ensure that the public is not left in the dark.

Wall Street bleats, London follows

THERE is nothing like a good old-fashioned knee-jerk reaction to show up the inconsistencies of the London stock market. London is, by any objective measure, overvalued, but probably not as overvalued as Wall Street given the respective performance of both markets.

US dealers, already braced for bad news from big industrial groups this autumn, were falling out of love with go-go technology stocks on Monday, prompted not least by whispers that Windows 95 might not be the godsend to the computer industry that had been hoped. This trend, however, had been largely overlooked by a London market dominated by the Lloyds/TSB merger and other takeover gossip.

By yesterday afternoon, London had caught up with events sufficiently to match Wall

Street's opening fall point for point, and the FT-SE tracked the Dow with suspicious precision for much of the afternoon. Gloom on the London market is understandable, given the political uncertainties — business leaders may increasingly be backing more than one horse in the election race by funding Tony Blair, but that does not mean they are at ease with the idea of a Labour government.

But there is no reason why a lack of appetite for overpriced high-tech US stocks should prompt quite such an abrupt sell-off of blue chips in the City, other than the sheer perversity of a London market dominated by US securities houses that takes its lead from any bleat and whimper from Wall Street.

Told you so

THE proliferating snapshots from a dismal housing market are a classic example of the self-fulfilling prophecy in economics. Never mind that such blanket assessments hardly tie in with experience in the real world, which is that some parts of the country are doing very nicely, thank you, while others are not shifting at all, at any price. More to the point, there is nothing like bad news from those on the front line to scare off the few potential buyers.

Retail woes blamed by Lloyds Chemists

By SARAH BAGNALL

ALLEN LLOYD, chairman at Lloyds Chemists, yesterday blamed Sunday trading and the National Lottery for stagnating profits at the retail group.

Mr Lloyd said the deregulation of Sunday trading had hit the group's drugstore division as customers opted to shop at out-of-town sites rather than town centres.

He described the move as the "most significant change in retailing for over a decade. In under a year it has brought about a marked alteration in consumer spending patterns,

with Sunday now being the second busiest trading day in the week."

Referring to the National Lottery, he said an average of £100 million was being spent a week on tickets and retailers who were not selling tickets were suffering.

"There has been a noticeable decline in discretionary consumer expenditure in some of the less affluent areas of the country," he said.

Mr Lloyd's remarks came as the retailer reported a drop in pre-tax profits from £58.3 million to £42.2 million in the

year to June 30. The decline partly reflected a £13.4 million exceptional charge relating to the restructuring of the drugstore division, announced in March.

Group sales rose 15 per cent to £1.1 billion. The results were in line with forecasts, but gloomy news on current trading sent the shares down 12p to 230p.

The decline in underlying profits reflected the reversal of fortunes at the drugstore division. It lost £3.7 million against a profit of £1.3 million last time. Store closures total

108, 25 of which have been converted into Holland & Barrett outlets. A further 20 will be converted into new health and beauty formats.

The remaining 175 drugstores are due to be converted into the new format within 18 months.

The group's other divisions all reported record profits. The chemist division lifted profits from £43.1 million to £45.1 million, helped by a major flu epidemic.

Mr Lloyd said the chemist stores had not been affected by Sunday trading as they were community based.

RPR buys more shares in Fisons

TWO institutional investors have sold their holdings in Fisons, the drugs company fighting a takeover bid from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer (RPR), the Franco-American pharmaceutical group that last week raised its offer from £1.7 billion to £1.83 billion (Eric Reguly writes).

Clerical Medical, a British fund manager that owned 1.42 per cent of Fisons, and Sun Life of Canada, which owned 1 per cent, sold their shares yesterday at 265p, the value of RPR's revised offer.

RPR now owns about 21 per cent of Fisons shares. Shareholders have until October 20 to decide whether to accept RPR's offer.

Fox Television plans to buy more American stations

By ERIC REGULY

RUPERT MURDOCH, chairman of The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, said Fox Television will buy more stations in America once the current market share restrictions are lifted.

Fox has 12 US stations giving it about 23 per cent coverage. Federal law prevents it from exceeding 35 per cent. The new Telecommunications Act should raise that limit to 35 per cent and possibly up to 50 per cent. Mr Murdoch, speaking at News Corp's annual meeting in Adelaide, Australia, said he is "confident" that the Telecommunications Act will not be vetoed. Fox became the number

four TV network in the 1980s after acquiring six stations from Metromedia for about \$1.5 billion. It has since grown rapidly and claims the number three viewing position in the 18-49 age group, behind ABC and NBC, ahead of CBS.

The stations, with profit margins of 30 per cent, are generating strong returns. But Mr Murdoch said advertising was headed for "some softening" in the next quarter. He did not say which stations Fox would like to buy, but it is understood that a shortlist of acquisition candidates has been drawn up. Stations in large cities can cost \$200 million or more, suggesting

that Fox's plan to grow to 35 per cent coverage could cost as much as \$1 billion.

Mr Murdoch said News Corp's newspapers in Britain and Australia were performing well in spite of the sharp rise in newspaper costs. Prices had climbed as much as 50 per cent and were expected to rise a further 10 per cent over the next 12 months.

Today is the one problem area. Mr Murdoch said: "It is a very good paper, but in a crowded field, it is finding it hard to grow." News Corp announced earlier its net profit rose to \$1.365 billion (£657 million) in the year to June 30 (\$1.335 billion).

JJB profits delight City

By SARAH BAGNALL

JJB SPORTS, the chain of sports shops run by Dave Whelan, the former Blackburn Rovers footballer, pleased the City yesterday with an 89 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to 4.8 million in the six months to July 31.

The news lifted the shares 41p to 419p — nearly double the 215p at which the company floated its shares on the stock market last November. The rise in profits, achieved on the back of a 51 per cent rise in sales to £37.5 million, prompted analysts to lift their full-year forecasts.

Mr Whelan said the group, which ended the period with 139 stores, had opened three out-of-town superstores since August. These stores, which have activity areas where customers can play football and basketball, are proving very successful, he said. Reflecting this, the group plans to open four more during the second half.

In the first half, sales rose in all categories of merchandise — footwear, clothing, replica kits and equipment. Replica kit sales accounted for 20 per cent of total sales, up from 16 per cent last time. This reflected more new kit launches by the larger football clubs in the first half. Clothing sales fell from 37 per cent to 33 per cent of group sales.

Mr Whelan said the company has continued to make good progress in the second half, with sales in the first eight weeks up 11 per cent and like-for-like sales ahead 46 per cent. The dividend, due on December 11, was lifted from 1.04p to 2.75p and is being paid out of earnings of 10.56p, up from 6.55p last time.



Heading for success: David Whelan, chairman of JJB

Holland & Barrett lifted profits by 43 per cent to £7.3 million, while the pharmaceutical division profits rose 24 per cent to £16 million. Veterinary profits rose from £3.5 million to £3.9 million.

The final dividend of 7.3p lifted the total for the year by 7.4 per cent to 10.2p and Mr Lloyd said the increase reflected the board's confidence in the group's future prospects.

"All the parts of the business, apart from the drugstores, are doing very well and the problems with the drugstore division have been dealt with substantially," he said.

The dividend is being paid on December 14 out of pre-exceptional earnings of 29.3p.

Temps, page 28

North West extends Norweb bid

By ERIC REGULY

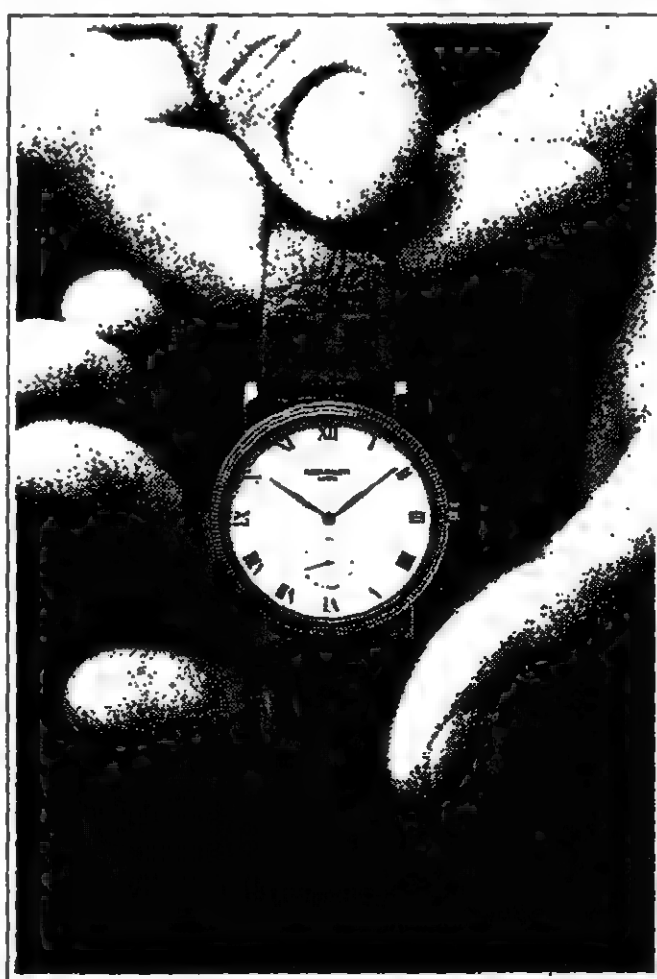
NORTH WEST WATER, which is expected to raise its bid for Norweb before the weekend to counter a white knight bid from Texas Energy Partners, has extended its offer until October 23 after receiving just 0.47 per cent acceptance.

This raised its effective control to 12.14 per cent after its purchase of 11.67 per cent in the market. Texas Energy has not been buying shares in the market. North West is expected to raise its bid by about 40p per share, which would bring its cash offer to 1115p.

Texas Energy Partners, composed of Houston Industries and Central & South West, have offered 1065p in cash, up 3.3 per cent from its opening bid.

North West announced that its rights issue, 86.3 per cent subscribed, raised £121.1 million before expenses.

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a particular Patek Philippe movement requires four years of continuous work to bring to absolute perfection, we will take four years. The result will be a watch that is unlike any other. A watch that conveys quality from first glance and first touch. A watch with a distinction: generation after generation it has been worn, loved and collected by those who are very difficult to please: those who will only accept the best. For the day that you take delivery of your Patek Philippe, you will have acquired the best. Your watch will be a masterpiece, quietly reflecting your own values. A watch that was made to be treasured.

Party's over for political parties

By COLIN NARRROUGH

COMPANY donations to political parties, which have almost exclusively gone to the Conservatives, are in decline in the face of increasing demands from institutional and individual investors for more say in how profits are used.

The decision by Tate & Lyle to start to donate money to Labour looks unlikely to be widely followed.

Although Conservative Central Office says that most of its corporate backers are still contributing, Tory accounts show a drop of about £1 million in the level of funding to about £2 million. Analysis by Pensions Investment Research Consul-

ants (Pirc), an organisation that advises on corporate governance, shows that at the end of August only 46 companies of 232 big companies in its latest survey had made a political donation this year, compared with 56 last year.

The survey extrapolates that donations from Britain's 250 top companies would give the Conservatives £1.52 million this year, up slightly from last year, but well below the £2.2 million in 1991 and 1992. Of the 13 companies, which reported that they halted donations in the past year, 11 were former Conservative donors.

Ardent ideological support from captains of industry and commerce does not necessarily translate into company fund-

ing. Lord Sheppard of Didgemere's Grand Metropolitan does not give any money to Central Office. Among the companies that have ended their funding for the Conservatives are Whitbread, United Biscuits, Rank, Glaxo Wellcome, Cookson and Vodafone. Rolls-Royce cut its contribution from £60,000 to £35,000. Trafalgar House halved its funding to £10,000.

Stuart Bell, research director at Pirc, the trend was "clearly away from making political donations". Pirc has been urging company boards to ask shareholders for their approval before giving money to political organisations as part of its wider drive for accountability.

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE

London: Patek Philippe Showroom, Asprey, Garrard, Watches of Switzerland Ltd., Stratford-upon-Avon: George Pragnell Ltd., Scotland: Hamilton & Inches Ltd., Watches of Switzerland Ltd., Channel Islands: Herich Ltd., Jewellers & Silversmiths Ltd., Belfast: John H. Lunn Ltd., Dublin: Weir & Son Ltd., Chester: Boodle & Dunthorne, Leeds: Berry's.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Dow opening plunge gives London a fright

WHEN Wall Street sneezes, London invariably catches a cold. Yesterday was no exception.

As the Dow Jones industrial average extended Monday night's 42-point fall in early trading yesterday, the FT-SE 100 index had no choice but to go with the flow. A disappointing set of third-quarter figures from Motorola provided the signal for the sell-off in New York which saw the Dow plunge more than 60 points at one stage, before halving the fall later in the session.

But the rally came too late to bring much relief to London where the index ended the session 30.2 down at 3,460.1, having been almost 70 points lower earlier in the day.

Much of the damage was inflicted by the futures market where the index was driven down through the 3,491 resistance level.

Institutional selling was light. With so much corporate activity at present, fund managers are reluctant to sell the market and seem happy to ride any short-term corrections. By the close of business, less than 800 million shares had changed hands.

When business resumes in London this morning, the bargain hunters are expected to be out in force.

Among leaders, Pearson stood out with a rise of 5p to 60p, still reflecting the break-up value of £9 placed on the shares by Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker. But Glaxo Wellcome fell 15p to 75p, worried by the threat of increased competition for its immunisation drug used for treating malaria.

TSB retreated 2p to 35p, but still remains 2p above the expected merger terms from Lloyds Bank. The sides confirmed they were in talks on Monday and are expected to issue details of the proposed £15 billion deal some time this week. Lloyds, 6p cheaper at 72p, will speak for 70 per cent of the enlarged company with TSB controlling the balance.

Meanwhile, City speculators tried to focus on the next likely bid target with the hot money laid on Standard Chartered, up 18p at 484p, on turnover of almost 7 million shares. Standard is not new to takeover speculation. It was the subject of an aborted takeover bid from Lloyds in



Shares in Lloyds Bank retreated 6p to 720p

the 1980s and was only saved by the intervention of several white knights.

This year, the Standard share price has gone from strength to strength, reflecting better trading conditions in the banking world and the conviction on financial markets that the group will eventually be bid for.

Other potential suitors are

BOC was one of the few top 100 shares to finish higher, up 3p at 83p. Brokers were positive after meeting the company last night. Cost-cutting and better trading in gas should be reflected in first-half figures. The group is expected to move further into Europe with acquisitions. Profit upgrades are expected.

thought to include Royal Bank of Scotland, up a further 7p at 491p, and Bank of Scotland, 2p firmer at 242p. A merger between the two might make sense and enable them to compete head-on in the growing financial market.

The threat of increased competition from the rapidly expanding Lloyds left Barclays 20p down at 74p. National Westminster 20p off at 598p. HSBC

with the technical and financial strength to see the project through to the end.

Full-year figures from takeover favourite Lloyds Chemicals failed to live up to expectations, leaving the shares 12p lower at 230p. Pre-tax profits tumbled by almost 30 per cent to £42.2 million after provisions totalling £13.4 million relating to the reorganisation of its drugstore

business. Brokers have begun downgrading their profit estimates for the current year.

News of a drop in profits also left Thorntons, the chocolate supplier, 4p lower at 149p. David Mitchell has quit as managing director in this country, before the appointment of a new chief executive. The new man has still to be named but is said to have extensive retailing experience.

Difficult trading conditions held back Walker Greenbank in the first half and left the shares 1 1/2 p easier at 80p. The group has forecast a stronger second half.

St Ives, the printer, is starting to benefit from a £40 million investment programme which has increased capacity in both this country and Europe.

Profits last year grew 31 per cent and further strong growth is envisaged. The share price responded with a jump of 9p to 414p.

Newcomer JJB Sports, the sports goods retailer, also pleased the market with a sharp jump in first-half profits and news of an 11 per cent rise in like-for-like sales during the first eight weeks of the second half. The shares rose 12p to 419p.

Quality Software surged 75p to 705p, in spite of revealing terms of a rights issue to raise almost £15 million. The proceeds will be used to help to pay \$11.5 million for Global Software, the US software specialists. The news came as Quality Software announced interim pretax profits up from £604,000 to £805,000.

QIL-EDGED: London was dragged lower by opening falls among US treasury bonds. Gills had been fairly resilient up until lunchtime but were unable to buck the trend in both New York and the London equity market. However, prices managed to close off their worst.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt touched £104 1/2 before closing 1/4 easier at £105 1/8. Turnover reached 47,000 contracts. In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 lost 7/32 at 106 1/8, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1/4 easier at 101 1/8 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street steadied after morning losses. By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 34.32 points down at 4,691.90.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4691.90 (-34.32)
S&P Composite 574.87 (-3.70)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9730.92 (-132.52)

Amsterdam:
AEX 454.62 (-3.94)

Sydney:
ASX 2062.1 (-28.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2138.77 (-28.92)

Singapore:
Straits 2114.83 (-23.76)

Brussels:
General 2779.36 (-30.48)

Paris:
CAC 40 1777.98 (-17.75)

Zurich:
SIX 691.10 (-5.20)

London:
FT 30 2533.5 (-42.7)

FT 100 3460.1 (-30.2)

FT-SE Mid 200 3903.2 (-49.9)

FT-SE 250 3771.54 (-20.91)

FT-SE 100 3771.54 (-20.91)

FT All-Share 1711.85 (-23.20)

FT Non Financials 1826.21 (-24.19)

FT Financials 1115.6 (-4.62)

FT Govt Sec 627.5 (-10.1)

Bargains 3374

SEAQ Volume 628,538

US\$ (Dollars) 178.81 (-1.94)

US\$ 1.5776 (-0.0072)

German Mark 2.2366 (-0.0003)

Exchange Index 945.1 (-0.1)

Bank of England official rate 6.00p

EUR 1.991

ESR 1.079

148.9 Aug 1994 Jan 1995=100

148.6 Aug 1994 Jan 1995=100

REUTERS

Consolidated C 50 65

Euro Sales Fin 125

German Sfr W 20

Hay & Robinson 38

Mayflower 68

MultiMedia 45

Murray Vt 105

Omnicare 86

Pemberton 60

Picta British 100

Preson Nth 400

SCS Sfr Sys 125

Uni Salvage 149

Upson & Sfr W 154

REUTERS

Alumasc n/p 300

Anglo-East n/p 105

Batis n/p 16

Corn Bros n/p 275

Johns n/p 400

Johns n/p 400

RMC n/p 950

REUTERS

Alumasc n/p 300

Anglo-East n/p 105

Batis n/p 16

Corn Bros n/p 275

Johns n/p 400

Johns n/p 400

RMC n/p 950

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Batis n/p 16

Corn Bros n/p 275

Johns n/p 400

Johns n/p 400

RMC n/p 950

REUTERS

Alumasc n/p 300

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Breaking the ice

THE long-serving Maxwell trial jury was yesterday reminded of the modern era of "New Man". Mr Justice Phillips, the trial judge, instructed the 12 to elect a foreman. "By the end of this trial you must choose a foreman," said the judge. "In the days of political correctness, I should say a foreperson." He said he had waited for the jurors to get to know each other. It was day 78 of the trial.

No rest

IS THERE no rest for Sir Brian Pittman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank? On Monday, Sir Brian was obliged to dash back to London from Washington to lead the negotiating team in the bid for TSB. All day there were meetings, then a hastily convened evening board meeting at which he outlined Lloyds case, which was heard. I'm told, without a single critical or dissenting voice. Then it was an informal in-house dinner prepared by Kevin, the chef. Today, it is yet more presentations as the formal terms are revealed. How he must be missing Washington.

Clubbable

CLUB 24, the neat subsidiary whose business is customer service management, unwittingly threw a rave party recently. Management decided it was time to change the company's name. So 1,000 staff were bidden to Leeds Town Hall. However, banners proclaiming a Club 24 function excited borders of local youths to believe that the holiday company Club 19-30 was throwing a bash. It must have been some party. Not even the gatecrashers headed for the exit when the announcement finally came that Club 24 would now be known as Ventura.



That's what we
Conservatives need
— loyalty cards

Fitting the bill

SMOKE has appeared from the boardroom chimney of British Vita. The winner of its competition (City Diary, October 2) to name the family of storks nesting on top of its foam factory in Brez Dolney, Poland, is David Finch, of Walton-on-Thames, for his suggestion "Storkski and Hatch". A bottle of Polish vodka is on its way. The first female stork will be called Marge.

Dire dates

DONT say City Diary never warned you, but on October 5 the column quoted from the Schwartz Stock Market Handbook that October 9 is the second worst day of the year, and that October 10 is the eighth worst day. On Monday, the market fell 16.2 points. Yesterday, the market was off 50.2 points. The next bad day, according to Schwartz, is October 26. Stand by.

Barings

CONTRARY to our article yesterday about the source of the Lloyds/TSB merger leak, we now accept that the leaked information did not come from Barings. We apologise to Barings for any embarrassment caused by the article.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Window of opportunity in the house of despair

Robert Miller on
why it is time for a
politically inspired
solution to the
housing malaise

MORE bad news for the housing market today from the Halifax Building Society puts Kenneth Clarke under further pressure to come up with something concrete to help the housing market in his keynote speech to the Conservative Party conference tomorrow morning.

That the Chancellor of the Exchequer will mention the housing market in his speech seems almost certain. His advisers have informed him that today's Halifax quarterly house price index spreads the gloom around the whole country with prices weaker in all regions of the United Kingdom, with the exception of Northern Ireland, than they were a year ago.

In London alone, that means that an average £31 billion has been wiped off the value of homes since the boom years of the late 1980s.

Mr Clarke has been told by many of his backbench MPs that the complaints they are receiving from their constituents relate to the housing market. If he has any remaining doubts, he need only look at this year's conference manual which lists 200 motions put forward by constituencies for debate on the economy of which at least a quarter refer to the housing market.

There is nothing in the way of pre-Budget protocol which absolutely forbids a Chancellor from making a pronouncement on policy at the conference. He could easily, for example, signal to delegates that he intends to abolish stamp duty, as the Halifax and indeed the Council of Mortgage Lenders have called for, and then confirm the measure in his Budget, but no one is really expecting him to.

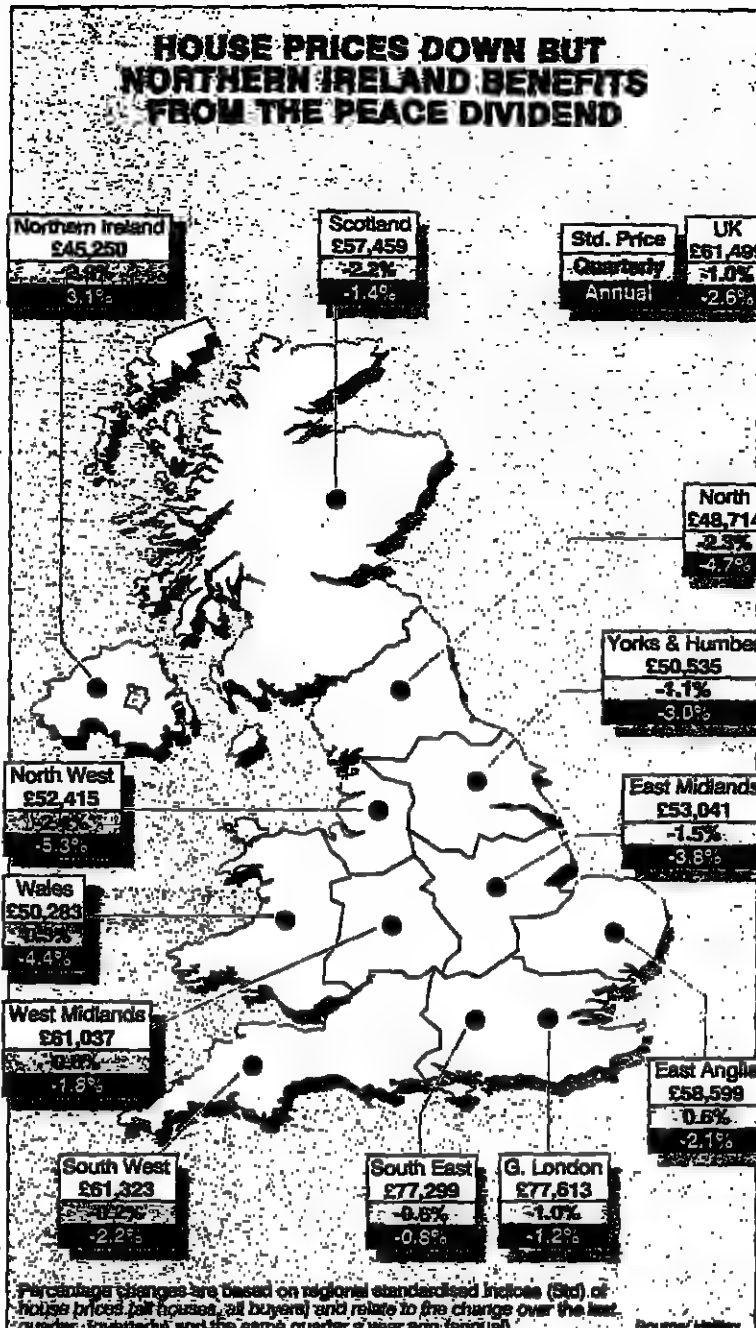
By signalling a move now, he could show that the Government acknowledges that the housing market is in danger of being left behind in the economic recovery.

Some analysts believe that a strong statement of continuing Government commitment to the housing market without any specific measures may suffice. The general statistics coming from the housing market, however, including the lenders' own figures on mortgage advances, indicate that some form of practical help is needed.

The increase in leading house price indices in September — the Halifax reported a modest 0.3 per cent increase while the Nationwide announced a 0.6 per cent rise — are still well down on a year ago.

And, these increases, against the general monthly trend earlier in the summer, may be explained by those who were intent on moving doing so before the cuts in income support came into effect at the beginning of this month. Under the recently introduced DSS rules, new borrowers who subsequently lose their jobs or become too ill to keep up with their monthly mortgage repayments will have to wait nine months to receive any state assistance.

Those involved in the mortgage market insist that the recent Budget submission from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) is not simply a case of special pleading. They argue that other vital parts of the economy are affected, such as housebuilders and retailers. The building industry points out that, while housing starts may have tumbled 17 per cent so far this year, the level of transactions, the



lifeblood of the market, is down 30 per cent. Other sectors to suffer include builders' merchants and suppliers, paint and DIY stores and electrical and white goods manufacturers. Recent estimates for the housing market as a whole show that, at about 1.2 million transactions are a full half a million down on the average prevailing between 1982 and 1986.

This in turn is even further below the market peak of 2.15 million transactions recorded in 1988. The CML has recommended that as well as housing tax and transaction duty the Chancellor should introduce additional help for first-time buyers.

The trade body, which represents 98 per cent of all lenders, laid the blame for the ailing housing market firmly at

the Government's door, citing uncertainty over jobs, interest rates and Government policies. The result, says the CML, is that, after a modest recovery in house prices and transactions between 1992 and 1994, the full force of recession has hit the market again this year.

The CML says its members have done their bit by cutting interest rates without an official move by the Bank of England. Margins too, have been cut. To drive home his point, Adrian Coles, the director-general of the CML, said in his submission: "A major problem with the housing market is too low a level of transactions."

"One obvious way to deal with this is to abolish the tax on transactions. Well over half of all house purchasers in the

areas worst affected by negative equity — London and southeast England — have to pay Stamp Duty." Mr Coles concluded: "The housing market is deep in recession and has not shared in the general economic recovery that has occurred over the last two or three years." Without Government help, either tomorrow or in the Budget, the CML said: "There is a significant risk that activity in the housing market will decline further."

There are, however, powerful voices in City circles who argue that abolishing stamp duty or, worse still, announcing short-term measures, which when they are ended create even more long-term headaches for the market, are not the answer to the housing malaise.

Some have argued for the complete abolition of Miras on the grounds that it makes housing more expensive. Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, favours a one-off lump sum worth between £2,500 and £3,000 being given to each adult in the UK to be used when they move. To cut down on the opportunities for fraudsters to misuse the system, the lump sum would be linked to National Insurance numbers.

Mr Bell says the attraction is that it helps the one million-plus people who are caught in negative equity — their loan is larger than the value of the property — and the 2.5 million trapped by neutral equity — the property is worth the same as their mortgage — who cannot afford to raise the increasingly high initial deposits demanded by lenders.

The lump sum would also provide immediate cash to meet a fair proportion of the fees and other costs related to moving home.

Based on the current level of 1.2 million transactions, the cost of the lump sum housing grant to the Treasury would have been £3.6 billion against the £3 billion that Miras costs at present.

Whether Miras is abolished now or later almost becomes a secondary issue, says Mr Bell. He believes that Miras could be phased out at the time people lay claim to their lump sum.

According to Bell, the housing grant could be paid for by £5 billion available to the Chancellor through raising special taxes. For example, he says there is perhaps up to £2 billion to be raised through taxing windfall corporate profits with the burden falling mainly on the privatised utility companies over the longer term. There is between £1.5 and £2 billion to be gleaned from the Treasury's Contingency Fund.

The Chancellor has for some time now been the target of various helpful suggestions from any number of quarters on how he may best lick-start the housing market, or in some people's view, save it from sinking back to the depths of recession. Even the Prime Minister and some of his think-tank advisers have floated, unofficially of course, different solutions.

The view of Kenneth Clarke and his officials, however, is that the Treasury can help by maintaining a low inflation environment from which low mortgage rates will follow. Further, they maintain that economic growth will bring rising prosperity and real incomes and the increased consumer confidence necessary to put the housing market on an even keel.

Nevertheless, the Chancellor's pragmatic view of the housing market may not prevail in the end. Repossessions have started to rise again for the first time in four years and all regions in the UK are feeling the pinch of falling house prices to a greater or lesser extent. If the situation shows no sign of picking up, and few believe it will this side of Christmas, a politically inspired solution may have to be forthcoming, no matter how it is dressed up.

UK HOUSE PRICES

	Pre 1978	1978-85	1986-90	Post 1990	New	All
Terminated houses	847,228	847,887	843,495	847,580	858,364	847,754
Semi-detached houses	275,070	259,258	252,707	251,747	255,705	257,807
Detached houses	212,243	211,006	212,584	211,711	219,297	211,588
Bungalow	270,126	272,256	259,521	252,545	256,536	256,063
Flats & maisonettes	250,871	246,781	242,558	242,714	257,235	251,567
All	228,788	221,887	226,206	228,501	237,358	228,332

Prices shown are the national average prices of houses on which an offer of mortgage has been granted. These prices are not standardised and therefore can be affected by changes in the sample from quarter to quarter.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Tax priorities

From Mr John Venn
Sir, Graham Searjeant's plea for taxes to be shifted from business costs to profits is very much to be welcomed (Business News, September 25).

Reform of the business rates system, however, needs to go much further than relieving those who run their business from home. We do not live above our shop, which is leased and attracts an unriveted rate in excess of £8,000. This is for the business which earns for its two full-time working partners a total amount which is less than a single parliamentary salary.

As relief is gradually removed and we march towards a tax bill which we know will cripple us, we are unable to renegotiate the rent, because of upward only rent reviews, and both the property and the business are blighted by the very existence of the high potential rates bill, so we cannot "get on our bikes" without losing everything.

We should be the backbone of Conservative support, but do the Tories really imagine that quinqupling the rates is the way to win votes and influence people?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN VENN,
The Bazaar,
1 Eastgate Square,
Chichester,
West Sussex.

Letters to the Business section can be faxed on 0171-782 5112.

'Windfall orphan funds' should be given to charity

From Mr Jack Shapiro
Sir, The question posed by your report that the Refuge Insurance have asked the Department of Trade and Industry to allow "windfall orphan funds" to be used by them to fund a big acquisition (September 26) is whether these funds belong to shareholders or policyholders.

The sums involved in this one case run into hundreds of millions and if multiplied by the funds held in many other institutions would run into billions. There is a legal remedy known as "cy pre" and is used when a trust fund is no longer able to fulfil its original obligations. The courts can then redirect the funds to another worthy cause.

The orphan funds should be required by Parliament to pass to the Official Custodian

so that those charities now suffering loss of income from the effects of the National Lottery and a general reduction in legacy income, might be able to carry on their work. This would be a useful outcome rather than allowing this money to lie idle in the hands of the institutions.

Yours faithfully,
JACK SHAPIRO,
100 Brim Hill, N2.

KPMG's incorporation called to account

From Mr Robert Breckman
Sir, The decision by KPMG, chartered accountants, to form themselves into a plc to avoid personal liability in the event of negligence claims being made against the partners, is to be deplored (Business Times, October 9). As a chartered accountant I hold my head up high and I make an error I do not see why I should hide behind the protection of a limited company. After all, I take out insurance to cover

possible professional deficiencies and those affected by it will receive reimbursement. Under the KPMG scheme the helpless victims are denied any compensation. This is all totally wrong. How can we now be respected for our integrity if we run away from our obligations?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN,
Breckman & Company,
Chartered accountants,
49 South Molton Street, W1.

Plea for M&A facts

From Nicholas A. H. Stacey
Sir, Studying the Central Statistical Office's release on mergers and acquisitions for January to March 1995, I note that no distinction is made in the returns between private limited companies and/or public limited companies being bought.

This is regrettable since by far the greater number of acquired companies are private firms while accounting for a smaller amount of the expenditure warranted by their number. The CSO used to publish merger statistics for private and public companies and I wonder why this has been discontinued? It would help students of the M&A business as well as students of industrial organisation if such additional information were reinstated.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS A. H. STACEY,
Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.

Three's company

From Mr Hamish Robertson
Sir, The description of slam-door coaches (Business Letters, October 5) as spacious and comfortable is not one with which I am familiar. As my aching shoulder constantly reminds me it is not possible to fit three adults on a typical BR bench seat unless you adopt the two back and one forward sitting position. Slam-door coaches are draughty, cramped and slow. Mr Eccles of all people should be well aware that rail travel does not have to be like that, nor should he, in his position attempt to defend such obsolescence.

Yours faithfully,
HAMISH ROBERTSON,
30 Cromwell Lane,
Farnham, Surrey.

High life

From Mr Henry Button
Sir, Canary Wharf was described as "Europe's tallest office block" by George Sivel and others (October 3). They had apparently overlooked by Messeturm in Frankfurt, which rises to a height of 841ft 6 inches as compared with Canary Wharf's 800 ft.

I trust that it is not yet a crime to give the height of a building in feet as long as it is not being offered for sale. A height of 243.8 metres lacks the panache of 800 feet.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BUTTON,
7 Amburst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge.



Is this where Alan Greenspan first came in?

Almost eight years ago, Wall Street crashed. As I write, it is still possible that today will be remembered as Black Tuesday, or tomorrow as Black Wednesday, or, more likely, that this was just a rather sharp correction. (It would take a 1,400 fall on the Dow to equal the 1987 shake-out.) Whatever happens, investors may be hoping, Alan Greenspan at the Fed will know exactly what to do. Though he was then still a greenhorn as a central banker, he handled the crisis with a speed and skill which ensured that there was no economic fall-out from the markets, and established his authority at one blow. So it will all come out all right.

But will it? The problems he faces this time were discussed ten days ago in a lecture by Dr Henry Kaufman, with that uncanny timing which years ago established him as Dr Doom: and as he pointed out, the financial scene has changed fundamentally in the last eight years. The 1987 rescue was a brief time-out from economic management; but by 1995, the Fed is much more in the position of the Bank of Japan, engaged almost solely in financial management. Japan provides a warning of the danger of slow action: the bubble was allowed to grow much too far, and when it was pricked, the catastrophe ran unchecked for too long. The result is obstinate deflation. But over-hasty action also carries a danger, the "moral hazard" of any bail-out. If a mere correction is checked too quickly, investors may conclude the market can only rise in the long run, and a Wall Street bubble could result. The last was in 1929.

The trouble is that there are no longer clear rules. In 1987 the Fed was still fighting inflation and a falling dollar. Policy was based on money supply targets and since banks and thrifts dominated the markets for savings and credit, interest rates set by the Fed had a pervasive influence on the economy. A fairly safe world for a central banker. The Fed could take risks with temporary relaxation to keep markets liquid, because it

fact is that Alan Greenspan is surely the ideal pilot for this exercise in blind flying: an economist with a Wall Street background, and an attentive and fascinated pragmatist, who monitors the impact of everything he does. One can imagine his aims: a correction sharp enough to blow the froth off the market — notably in technology stocks, still in the stratosphere despite their recent fall. But he would wish to check it well this side of hysteria. He may get his chance to try this week: if not, surely before very long. If he gets through this time without an accident, he may really be the Solomon he seemed eight years ago.

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Losses extend across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	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Labour offers pilot scheme to help women find work

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

WOMEN trying to get back to work will be able to use new business-backed interactive computer databases on childcare, benefits and training under a new scheme, to be announced today, to be piloted by Labour. The move comes as the Government lays out new proposals on training and jobs, and as unions claim that new unemployment payments will cause as many as 55,000 people to lose up to £25 million.

Under the scheme, which is to be piloted in Cambridge with the support of local business-backed training and

enterprise councils, voluntary organisations, and local authorities, women will be able to use the terminals to access database information on the availability of childcare, welfare benefits, jobsearch skills and to update their skills.

Local policymakers would be able to use information drawn from the terminals as an indicator of likely local demand levels. Harriet Harman, Labour's main employment spokeswoman, says that such a one-stop shop will prove an invaluable help for mothers who want to return to the workplace. Challenging the Government to adopt the idea, Ms Harman also attacks the growth in women's unemployment, and says that the attempt two years ago by the Chancellor to help them by an increase in family credit to help with childcare costs has "failed miserably". Only 4,100 families have so far used this to get back into work, in sharp contrast to the Government's claims at the time of a direct uptake of 50,000, she said.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, is expected to outline new job and training measures when she addresses the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool today. But the Government's new jobseeker's allowance, which is to replace unemployment benefit, is attacked by the TUC, which says that 55,000 unemployed people whose husbands or wives are in work will lose all or some of their benefit, and collectively be at least £25 million worse off.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said: "The Government should use next month's Budget to create jobs and training places for the long-term unemployed." □ Demand for senior executives is up by almost 20 per cent on the third quarter a year ago, according to a survey today by MSL.

QSP beats the market gloom

By Philip Pangalos

SHARES in Quality Software Products Holdings bucked the gloomy market trend with a 79p surge to 705p after the accounting software group announced improved first-half profits with plans to expand in America.

QSP is acquiring Global Software Inc, a North Carolina company that has been QSP's exclusive US distributor of accounting and procurement software since February 1994, for \$11.4 million in shares and cash. Alan Mordain, QSP's chairman, said: "The US is the Big Apple as they say and the place to be. We are very confident that the acquisition will significantly enhance the group's earnings per share following 1996 when it is expected to have little impact."

QSP is also making a seven-for-20 rights issue, at 535p a share, to raise £14.7 million. The proceeds from the cash call will help to finance the acquisition, re-

pay \$6.6 million of Global liabilities and provide working capital to establish overseas sales.

Organic growth allowed QSP's pre-tax profits to advance to £805,000 in the six months to June 30, against £604,000 last time, on turnover ahead 39 per cent to £10.1 million. The interim dividend is raised to 1.5p (tp) and is payable on January 15.

Mr Mordain is optimistic on prospects and is confident of progress. He added that international expansion continues.

"Our key products are available and live in some of the world's key markets and we are accelerating the marketing as quickly as possible, but you've got to have a physical presence," he said. The company plans to launch an operation in Italy through a partnership. It also plans to open an office in New Zealand this year and another in Dubai in 1996.



Pamela Langworthy, marketing director at Thorntons, where profits fell by 13 per cent

Sun melts Thorntons profits

By Sarah Bagnall

THORNTONS, the chocolate manufacturer and retailer, revealed a boardroom shake-up as it reported a 13 per cent drop in profits to £10.5 million in the year to June 24.

The group is creating a new post of chief executive, which has gone to an outside candidate, triggering the departure of David Mitchell, the company's UK managing director. Mr Mitchell, who has been with the group for about six years, will receive compensa-

tion for loss of office. His salary is said to be more than £100,000 and he was on a two-year contract.

John Thornton said: "I have been chairman and chief executive of the group since 1988 and I thought it was time for some fresh input."

His remarks came as he revealed the 13 per cent drop in profits and a fall in sales from £96.6 million to £95.6 million. Mr Thornton said the group's performance suffered from

management's failure to get the product range right last Christmas coupled with advertising mistakes. These have now been rectified, he said.

Mr Thornton said the hot summer weather had boosted ice-cream sales but not enough to offset the adverse impact on chocolate sales.

The final dividend was lifted from 3.45p to 3.8p, making a total for the year of 5.3p, up from 4.9p last time. The dividend is due November 30.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

William Sinclair at record levels

SALES are blooming for William Sinclair Holdings, the garden and pet care suppliers, which yesterday announced record profits for the year ending June 30. Pre-tax profits rose 13 per cent to more than £4.7 million, while turnover was up almost 8 per cent to £44.4 million. This was despite one-off reorganisation costs in the pets division and the effect of cold weather until May which dented sales of garden products during the peak selling season of March, April and May, Tom Sinclair, the chairman, said.

Profits in the horticulture division were up 31 per cent to £3.7 million (£2.8 million). The pets, aquatic and household division's profits were down. Turnover was £10.6 million (£10.3 million) and pre-tax profits were £1.1 million (£1.3 million). Earnings per share rose to 14.7p (13p), and the total dividend per share increased to 7.6p (7.15p).

Double De La Rue sale

DE LA RUE, the security printer, has sold two former subsidiaries of Portals, the printing equipment company, taken over early this year, raising £5.7 million. Servelec and Seprol, which specialise in information, control and automation systems, have been sold to a management team, which raised a total of £9 million to cover working capital and funds for expansion. It led the transaction, with bank facilities provided by the Bank of Scotland. De La Rue will initially retain a one-third interest in the business.

Boost for property

CAPITAL AND REGIONAL PROPERTIES, the retail and commercial property development company, signalled a return to acquisitions, saying that investment property prices had returned to realistic levels. The company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £2.04 million from £1.24 million in the six months to June 24, with earnings of 3.66p a share (2.85p). The interim dividend is 0.8p (0.6p), payable November 24. The company said the oversupply of property was diminishing and rents and lease terms for landlords were improving.

Belgium for Kingfisher

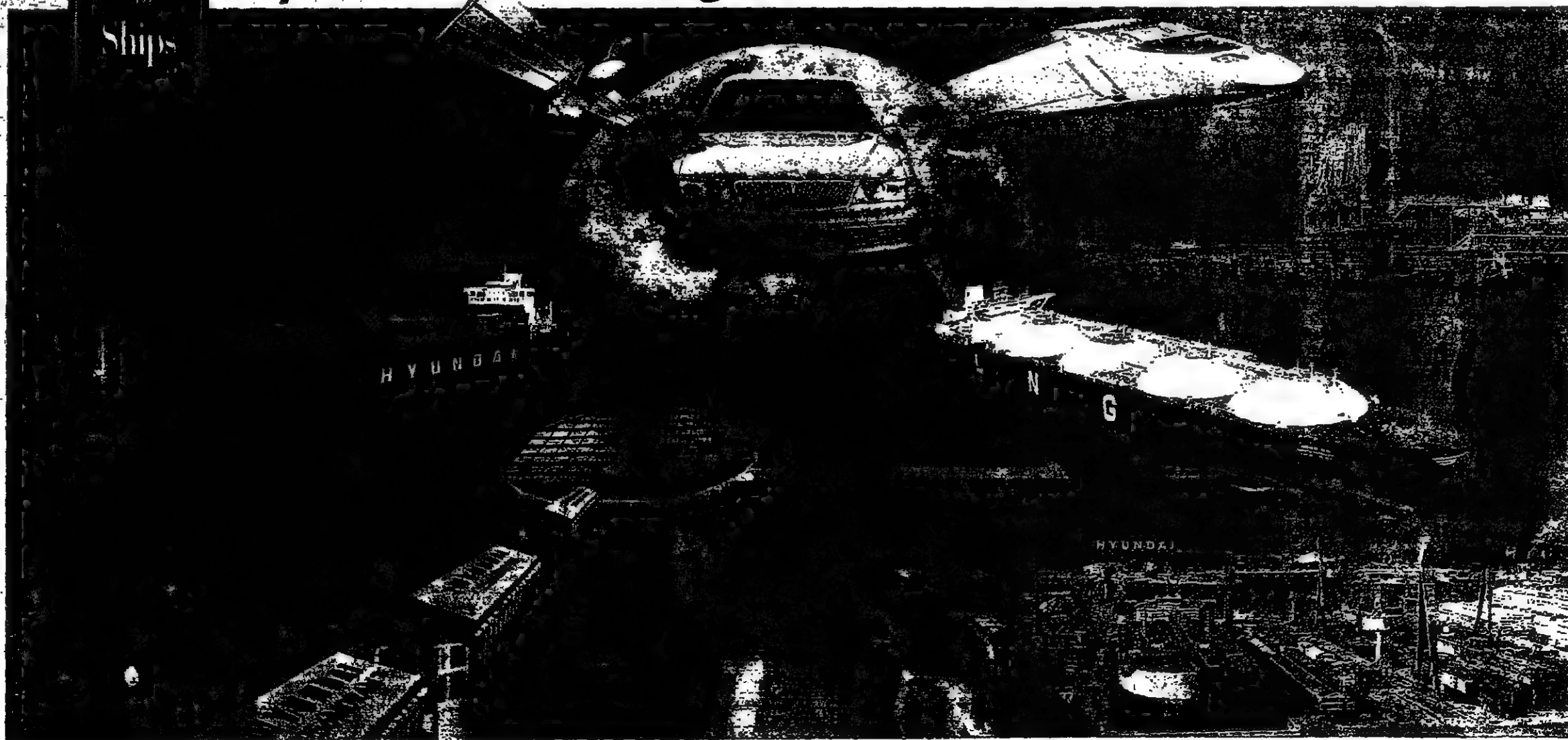
DARTY, the French electrical subsidiary of Kingfisher, has bought out partners in a Belgian joint venture for £2.5 million. Darty is paying six joint venture partners in Vanden Borre, an electrical retail company, in cash for their 51 per cent stake. Vanden Borre has 18 stores in Belgium. For the year to February 28 its profits were £400,000 on turnover of £34.5 million. The move takes Kingfisher's electrical business outside the UK and France for the first time. Responsibility for running the business will remain with the present management.

Setback for Hartons

THE proposed refinancing of Hartons Group, the troubled distribution company, suffered a setback after Suter, the industrial holding company, said it would vote against the terms. Suter claims it was not consulted about the proposals, even though it has the power to block the refinancing by virtue of its holding of 21.4 per cent of Hartons ordinary shares and 31.3 per cent of the preference shares. Suter rejects the offer of 90p per preference share. Hartons has convened an extraordinary meeting for November 5.

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An establishment which has educated boys for 442 years shows few signs of change and an enduring love of tradition, says David Tytler



Pupils take a break with coffee in the Orchard Centre café

School with a sense of the past

Mr Burn, a modern-languages teacher, had taken as his text *The Tongs of Fire*. Within an hour, fire was sweeping through the chapel at Tonbridge School, Kent, leaving nothing but the walls. Now, seven years later, the chapel has been restored, complete with a new £800,000 organ, at a cost of £7 million as part of a £20 million development programme.

The chapel is at the heart of the school, which was founded in 1553 and is proud of its traditions.

Martin Hammond, who became Headmaster five years ago, makes no excuses for the traditional way the school of 680 boys is run: "Boys eat all their meals in their houses. Chapel is central to school life, and the school is run in a very

structured way. Nothing is left to chance."

Tonbridge is one of only a handful of all-boys boarding schools left. The rest have either gone fully educational or have admitted girls into the sixth form. "It is not that I have any great moral objection," Mr Hammond says, "but the school works as it is. It is what our parents want, and if it isn't broken, why mend it?"

The no-nonsense prospectus makes this clear: "There are no plans to increase the numbers in the school or to introduce coeducation."

Mr Hammond believes that the relatively small numbers are an important factor in the Tonbridge story. He is able to teach Latin, which is compulsory, to all new pupils, and can devote a considerable amount of time to interviewing par-



Tonbridge School has a traditional exterior but there is a £20 million development programme under way, including an arts and technology centre

ents. Both are vital, he believes. "If you lose the thread of contact in the classroom — if you don't know what the boys are interested in, you drift out of touch. In a similar way, contact with parents is vital. You can learn a lot about your school talking to parents. You learn what they are looking for and what they want for their sons."

"If we were an 800 or 900-pupil school we would not be able to do these things. The school is, for example, able to meet together under one roof virtually every day and if we were to lose that we would lose something very valuable."

Mr Hammond, who came to Tonbridge from the City of London School, where he had been head for six years, says the two main strengths of Tonbridge are its academic and sporting successes. The

school is well established as one of the leading academic schools in the country. In league-table terms the school is number 11 for A levels. Only two other boarding schools, Eton and Winchester, are above it. Tonbridge was also the first school in the Headmasters' Conference to get a 100 per cent pass rate in A levels.

Mr Hammond, a classicist who taught at Eton for ten years, is also proud of the school's sporting record, not just because it is successful, but because of the number of games played. That allows even the least sporting of boys not only to enjoy his own favourite but also, more likely than not, to represent the school. Tonbridge can field up to 23 rugby teams, 12 cricket sides and 19 hockey teams. "Boys enjoy playing in their



Martin Hammond in the newly refurbished chapel

team, even if it is Colts D," Mr Hammond says. "They take it seriously, the staff take it seriously and they are proud of their team. And because so few schools can match our depth, we frequently win."

There are, he says, two drawbacks to success in the examination room and on the playing fields. "It gives rise to two misconceptions. The first is that people believe that we are far more selective than we are, and so prep schools and parents are a little cautious. The second is that you have to be a sportsman to get to Tonbridge."

Boys enter the school at 13, and have to gain a Common Entrance mark of 60 per cent as an average of all the papers. This is below the level required by the "metropolitan powerhouses", Mr Hammond says. About two-thirds of the

elopment programme aims. Mr Hammond says, to match the academic and sporting excellence in the creative arts, practical subjects and the performing arts by providing high-quality facilities. Work has begun on a complex to house art, computers, electronics, reprographics, and an enlarged music school. Two theatres equipped to professional standards — one to seat 350, the other a studio theatre — are planned for the next three years.

"The building will be designed to encourage interaction between its component parts. There is a natural link between music and computers, computers and art, and art and reprographics, and all have an impact on the work of the theatre," Mr Hammond says.

Music already plays an important part in the life of the school and will continue to grow, not least because of the new organ in the rebuilt chapel, with its better seating and improved acoustics. The choir is able to boast a strong treble line through an imaginative scholarship scheme for prep-school pupils. They are selected to sing at Tonbridge while still being taught in a local prep school.

Fees are high, at £12,350 a year for boarders and £8,715 for day boys, but Mr Hammond estimates that about half the pupils are given financial help. There are 21 academic scholarships, nine or ten music, up to five art and — from next year — technology scholarships, and some choral bursaries in addition to the choral scholarships. The annual £800,000 cost is met by the Judd Foundation, named after the school's founder, Sir Andrew Judd. The governors of the school are, as they have been since the founder's death, the Skinners Company, one of the oldest City livery companies.

A contented man, but with a realistic view of his school, Mr Hammond is particularly proud of its reputation among its peers: "Our standing among other schools is high and that's the ultimate test. They like coming to Tonbridge. They say that there is a sense of decency about the place and that is one of the enduring strengths of the school."

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Buildings for the future

Work has started on Tonbridge's
£20 million development

Martin Hammond's eyes light up at the mention of buildings. Putting up new structures is his forte.

It was what he did at the City of London School for Boys, where the staff and pupils moved along the river to a new site, and it is what he is doing at Tonbridge. The job requires vision, management skills and sang-froid — plus opportunity. Mr Hammond seized his chance.

Tonbridge is today engaged in one of the most ambitious building programmes undertaken by any independent school in recent years. The exercise is costing £20 million — most of which is coming from the school's endowment, which yields more than £1 million a year, and the rest from an appeal presided over by the cricketer and old boy, Sir Colin Cowdrey. The school is in the throes of

erecting an arts and technology centre next to the beautifully restored chapel, which will be joined by two theatres — a main auditorium seating 350 spectators and a studio theatre — to form one large single complex.

"It will gather under one roof all the practical and artistic subjects and the performing arts. We have designed it in such a way to allow the greatest interaction between these departments."

In preparation for that building, Mr Hammond visited other schools to see what they had done on the arts and technology side — Whitgift, St Paul's, Harrow, and the City of London Schools.

For a man who is such an avid classicist (Mr Hammond

has published a translation of the *Iliad*), it may seem odd that he is so keen on arts and technology. He says: "I firmly believe in the importance of that whole area of school experience and opportunity."

In addition to the arts and technology complex, the school has refurbished the former School House to include a modern studies block, containing history, geography and economics.

It has also built a new biology department by putting in a floor behind the battlements at the top of the Victorian science block. The latter is an ingenious design containing state-of-the-art facilities. Biology laboratories have been designed with a teaching area at the front of the class-

room for ease of communication — and a lab area at the rear.

The school has put up a new social centre, now named the Orchard Centre, which adjoins the chapel and is designed to blend with the Edwardian Gothic architecture next door.

Upstairs, most of the day boys can lunch in modern splendour in three separate but linkable dining rooms, and luxuriate in a beautiful view of the cricket ground.

Downstairs, during break-time and at weekends, all boys may use the café, with its black and chrome tables, where they can listen to pop music, eat unhealthy snacks and admire the brightly coloured murals which Mr Hammond commissioned from a young Old Etonian. The headmaster is proud of this café, and "the boys love it", he says.

As part of the building programme, Tonbridge is refurbishing boarding houses and re-erecting the original, small stone chapel on the right of the entrance to the school. Today, the chapel is used as a permanent lecture theatre.

The final project is a sports hall — still in the design phase — to complement the gym, the all-weather athletics track, and the 100 acres of pitches. It will boost the formidable reputation the school enjoys for sports.

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are delighted at the successful reinstatement of Tonbridge School Chapel and congratulate the School, the Governors and the Trustees of the St Augustine's Chapel Charity on the rededication of this magnificent building.

Farrer & Co have been solicitors to the Skinners Company and Tonbridge School since 1974 and advised on steering the chapel project through the planning and Ecclesiastical procedures and on the establishment of St Augustine's Chapel Charity.

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After the Chapel was devastated, we delivered a service.

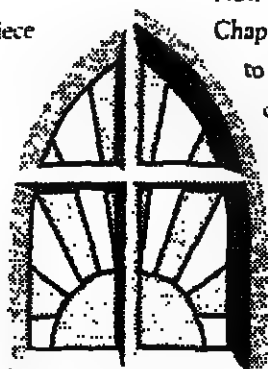
As fire swept through the Tonbridge School Chapel a piece of history was lost forever.

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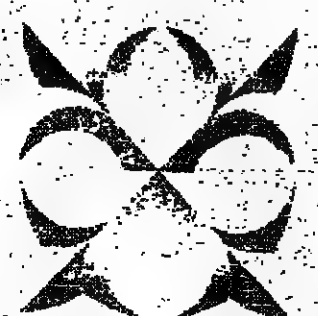
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Tonbridge's Edwardian Gothic chapel was almost totally destroyed by fire in 1988. It has now been lovingly restored to its former glory at a cost of close to £7 million

Risen from the ashes

Lucy Hodges follows the project to restore Tonbridge chapel

Had it not been for a pupil who spied a wisp of smoke coming out of Tonbridge's chapel roof, the fire which caused such devastation on September 17, 1988, might have spread further. The damage was bad enough. Tonbridge's Edwardian Gothic chapel, built in 1902, was virtually destroyed, its hammer-beam barrel-vaulted ceiling a pile of ashes, its silver cross buckled, its traceried windows gone for ever. "It was like a furnace," remembers James Bell, the senior chaplain. "Nothing survived. It burnt back to the brick."

The fire, which began just after dawn, raged all morning. By noon the chapel was a ruin. The blaze was declared extinguished almost 24 hours after it began.

Nobody knows what caused the inferno, although building work to the roof might have created the conditions in which a spark could ignite and a fire spread uncontrollably. "Such was the devastation that there was nothing left for any investigation," Mr Bell says.

He and his fellow chaplains were determined not to miss a service, so it was business as usual the next day in makeshift locations: meanwhile, restoration had begun.

Originally, the school intended to rebuild the chapel on its site and chose architect Richard McCormack to do the job. Sensitive to the chaplains' needs for a chapel wherein they could see all the pupils, he produced a design with a bigger roof than the original. The 1902 chapel was long and narrow, reminiscent of King's College, Cambridge. Today's clergy prefer something cosier. But the bigger roof was more expensive, particularly if erected on the original site, so

it was decided to build a new chapel on a different site. However, local opposition sprang up in the shape of the Campaign for the Restoration of the School Chapel. It was well organised and influential and wanted the chapel restored on its original site. Some local people, it transpired, cared passionately about the building. It was historically interesting, a much-loved feature of the Tonbridge skyline, and they were not going to let the school get away with a new version.

Two years after the fire, planning permission for the new chapel was rejected. The vote was narrow, but Tonbridge School had to think again. Martin Hammond's first job as headmaster was to decide whether to appeal against the decision or restore the chapel on its original site; he decided on the latter. Another architect, Donald Buttress, Surveyor to the Fabric at Westminster Abbey, produced a design which restored the original where possible and improvised the rest.

More complaints followed, but they were resolved in 1992, and the chapel — to be dedicated by the Bishop of Rochester on October 20 — is a masterful compromise between modern and traditional architectural forms.

"The complexity of the reconstruction of the chapel has possibly only been exceeded by St George's Chapel, Windsor, among recent ecclesiastical buildings to be devastated by

fire," says David Walker, the architect assigned to the day-to-day running of the project. Mr Walker is an associate with Buttress, Fuller, Alsop, Williams, a Manchester-based practice which has dealt with restoration works to Westminster Abbey and St George's Hall, Liverpool.

The project cost £7 million, one of the largest sums ever spent on a Christian church or cathedral in England. The lead-covered spire is entirely new, the Lady Chapel has been moved to a better location, and the statue of St Augustine of Canterbury is new, carved by Peter Hills, a

former director of art at Tonbridge. What is more, the new chapel will seat 810 people, compared with 450 in the former building.

The school, the staff and their guests gathering for the dedication will be able to feast their eyes on Mr Buttress's stunning stencils on the canopy above the altar — a riot of blue, green and gold — as well as his brass candelabra and the green fins which help to hold up the roof.

There is little in the chapel which has not been improved by Mr Buttress's attention to detail. The floor has been laid with Spanish marble, French limestone and Burlington slate from Westmorland; the pews give off the heady scent of European oak.

But, above all, the building has superb fire protection — the roof is made of a flame-resistant Canadian hemlock, and is alive with smoke detectors and hose reels.

THE CHURCH organ is surely one of man's most sublime creations, John Young writes. When Hilary Davan Weston, head of music at Tonbridge school, ripples fingers along the console, pulling out banks of stops to bathe the new chapel in glorious impromptu sound, the visitor can merely marvel at the splendour of it all.

For the purpose of this brief recital we have interrupted Olav Ossoren, chief voicer in the Danish firm of Marcussen & Son, widely considered to be the best organ builders in the world.

Until our arrival he has been busy "voicing" — or tuning — the 4,830 separate pipes which have gone into the making of this resplendent instrument. The pipes range in length from some 32ft to less than one inch and are



Julian Collings at the new organ

controlled by a panel of pedals and levers bearing descriptive names like Fanfare Trumpet and Dulciana. Vox Humana and Tuba Mirabilis.

"A newly installed organ normally sounds dreadful, but this one seemed to be in tune almost as soon as it was installed," Mr Davan Weston says.

The decision to buy Danish was not taken lightly. But the £800,000 Danish tender was considered to offer the best value for money, says Martin Hammond, the school's Headmaster.

"Some people would have liked us to buy British, but we wanted the best," Mr Davan Weston says. "This is a Rolle-Royce quality instrument."

There has always been a tradition of organ playing at Tonbridge, and now we have unquestionably the finest organ of any school in Britain," Mr Davan Weston says proudly. It has already been "christened" by Julian Collings, a 14-year-old music scholar, who will feature in the consecration service of the new chapel on October 20. It will be played in public for the first time by Simon Preston on November 17.

Long history of learning

Tonbridge has moved to cast off the worst of the old ways

For all its modern grandeur, Tonbridge had modest beginnings. Founded in Tudor times by a rich London merchant, Sir Andrew Judde, it began life as a "free" grammar school for up to 60 local boys.

According to Barry Orchard, who taught at the school and has written its history, *A Look at the Head and the Fifty*, Tonbridge was unusual for two reasons. It was set up as a boarding school, unlike most of the other "free" schools, and it was bequeathed to the Worshipful Company of Skinners, one of the oldest City livery companies, which has run the institution ever since.

Those two factors may explain how it managed to survive and to grow into a major public school despite frequent litigation about the meaning of the word "free" in Judde's will.

Certainly, the Skinners Company has provided funds for new buildings over the centuries with the income from the property Sir Andrew left in the City of London and St Pancras for this purpose.

For most of its first 300 years, boys received a rigid and tedious classical diet of lessons in an atmosphere that was pleasant enough, and certainly free from the bullying and misery common at other boarding schools. Pupils entered the school at the age of eight and learnt Latin, English and a little Greek.

It was in the last century that Tonbridge's name began to become synonymous with cricket. Major building work took place twice — in the mid-18th century, and again in the late-19th century after the school had bought the land known as The Head, the First XI cricket ground.

The Head became Tonbridge's focal point, says Barry Orchard in his book. "Not many schools have the benefit of a beautiful, almost sacred,

piece of ground right at the heart of the school." It was the inspiration for the exquisite oil painting executed by C.T. Dodd, *The Cricket Match at Tonbridge School 1851*, which depicts boys playing the game in the company of top-hatted masters, watched over by Victorian matrons. Charles Tattershall Dodd was drawing master at the school from 1834 to 1878.

Nevertheless, the school did not really begin to prosper until the last half of the 1800s when it grew in size and when sport began to figure large in daily life.

That may explain E.M. Forster's antipathy to the place. He is thought to have hated his time at school. In *The Longest Journey* he painted a picture of a fictitious school reeking with orthodoxy and chauvinism.

It wasn't until this century that the school built the famous red brick chapel which burnt down in 1988. There was some complaint about the red brick not matching the stone of the rest of the buildings, but with the passage of years the contrast became less stark.

Many boys and masters served in both world wars and some gave their lives. In 1943 Sidney Keyes, a Tonbridge old boy and a poet of the Second World War, was killed in action. He was only 20. Unlike E.M. Forster, he had happy memories of "a civilised school, tolerant of those who preferred debate and writing to scrumming."

But there remained some of the worst elements of public school life, including a complicated privilege system which allowed boys to beat other boys. Successive headmasters have set about reforming Tonbridge, but it was not until 1965 that fagging was abolished, to some protests. The school was at last catching up with the times.

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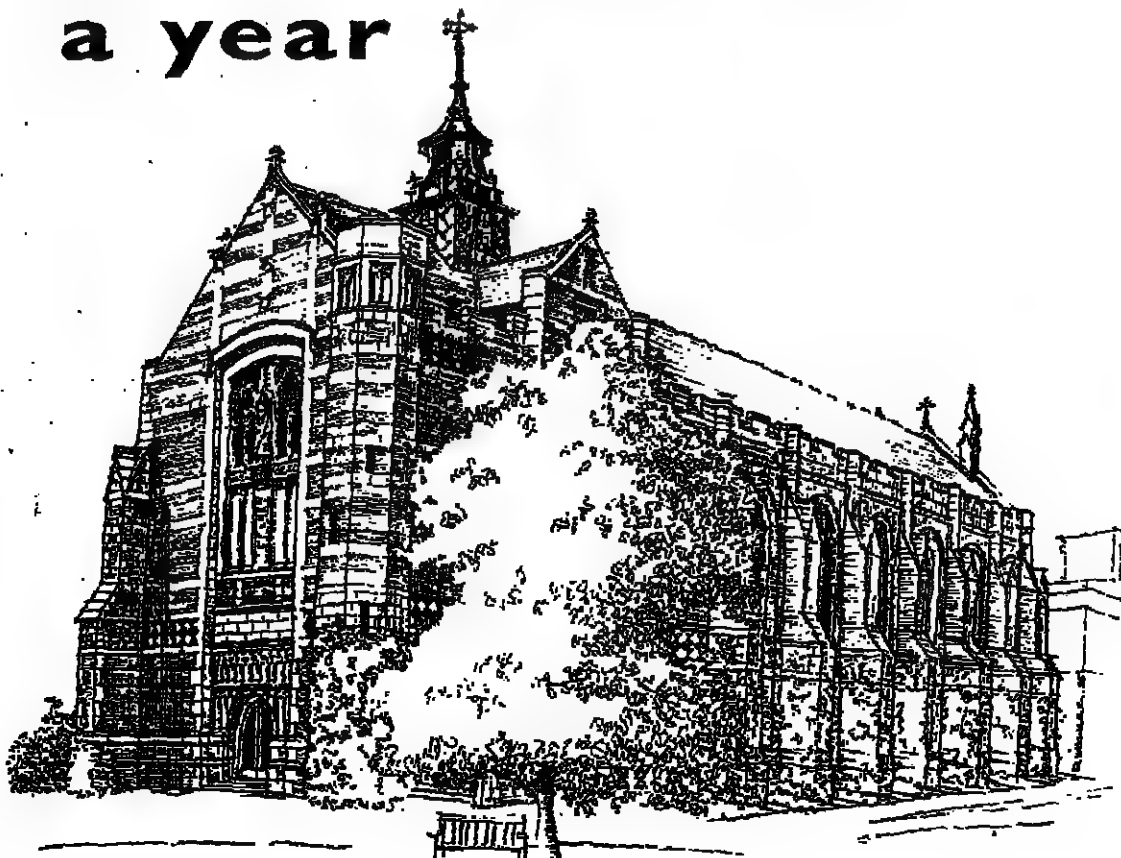
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THEATRE 1
It wasn't just homosexuality John Osborne was writing about in *A Patriot for Me*. He was damning Britain



THEATRE 2
In the West End, Tommy Steele works hard to make sure everyone has a good time at *What a Show!*

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3
See Vanessa Redgrave starring in *Antony and Cleopatra* in Cardiff, with *The Times Theatre Club*



TOMORROW
Disaster strikes when scientists mix a DNA cocktail from outer space, in the new Hollywood film, *Species*

The lost refuge of a scoundrel

Benedict Nightingale on what angered John Osborne, whose controversial *A Patriot for Me* is being revived

When the RSC opens its revival of John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* at the Barbican next week, it will be prepared for megatons of protest. Identifying the dramatist with his main character, a Habsburg officer destroyed by his homosexuality, after all, wasn't Osborne sensationally outed before he had time to compose a cantankerous diatribe against the conditions in the grave to which, sadly, he went last year?

But if that happens there is a danger of something more central getting missed. *A Patriot for Me* involves a decadent, class-ridden empire and, if its hypocrisies were peculiar to turn of the century Austria, I do not think Osborne would have bothered to write it.

All his plays, from *Look Back in Anger* in 1956 to *Defence of the Realm* in 1992, have been state-of-the-art. Even *Look Back in Anger*, a postmodernist portrait of the poet and reformer, leaves you in little doubt that a spoilt and corrupt Victorian might actually be a just off Horatio's cousin. And his posthumous *Henry Purcell*, which is to be performed on television soon, manages to slip in, in stark contrast to Twyford Down, the holooids, and political correctness. In radical youth and cranky old age alike, Osborne could be relied on to snipe or, more often, rage at every aspect of Britain that offended his quirky patriotism.

Early on, his verbal brutality was aimed pretty straightforwardly at an ossified Establishment. There was no doubting the contempt of Jimmy Porter, product of what he called a white-tie university, for the dumpy world of his MP brother-in-law, the

bowler-hatted "platitude from outer space", or for the Bishop of Bromley, who described it as a Christian duty to manufacture H-bombs. After *Look Back in Anger* came *The Entertainer*, in which a radical Archie Rice ended up in full comedian's gear, singing "Good old England, you're my cup of tea, and I don't want no drab equality" as a bloated,

All around he saw assaults on England's soul

nude Britannia lolled insolently in the background.

The offstage Osborne was not exactly a conformist either. As a boy he had been expelled from school for hitting his headmaster, who had objected to his mockery of the Royal Family, and as a successful dramatist he was arrested and fined for joining a sit-in against nuclear weapons. Fury at what he saw as a boom-bust ruling class also lay behind the open letter he improvised as he sat beneath the Riviera vines tripping Ricardo one morning in 1961: "Damn you, England, you're rotting now and quite soon you'll disappear."

That temperate mistle had consequences. The papers denounced the cad Osborne. A Major's de Vere Gordon MacLeish turned up at his French hideaway with a rifle and a Labrador, saying he had come to accept your apologies

to Britain. When Osborne went to Sussex, his house was picketed by villagers carrying placards reading "Damn you Osborne" and "Hellin'ly's Angry Old Men Object".

Throughout Osborne's career his plays, too, upset the conventional. In 1959, his *World of Paul Slippy* provoked London first-nighters to chase him up the Charing Cross Road, yelling "bloody rubbish". At Brighton in 1972 *A Sense of Detachment* inspired an old lady to throw her boots on the stage and bawl: "How can you, Lady Redgrave?" at Michael Redgrave's wife, Rachel Kempson.

But more than 14 years separated those plays. On the face of it, a giant shift of attitude did too. *Slippy* attacked snobism, royalty worship, the aristocracy and gossip columnists. *Detachment* ended up with the characters reading old love-poems and bits of hard porn, one after the other, by way of suggesting that crude money-men had hijacked our culture.

"We are part of an efficient maximum productive Economic Union. We do not love, eat or cherish. We exchange." No wonder Osborne was, as he himself ruefully said, increasingly "vilified by the prigs as a Tory squire and blimp". The nostalgia for some Edwardian Eden that had been vestigially apparent in *Anger* and *The Entertainer* became more and more marked as his rhetorical Gatling began to pepper idols of every style and variety: the cool, dreamy yet pushy youth of the 1960s in *Inadmissible Evidence*, a Philistine American counter-culture in *West of Suez* and, in *Time Present*, hippies, underground papers, women politicians, lady writers, the Labour Party, "committed" actresses such as Vanessa Redgrave, the nation's technological pretensions, and "poets".

Yet perhaps there was a consistency in his scorn. He despised consensus, conformism. He hated attempts to institutionalise shallow, fly-by-night attitudes as orthodox-



John Osborne: his 1965 *A Patriot for Me* is a convincing exposé of Establishment folly

ies, whether they came from the West, the Left, the go-getting Right or anywhere else. All around he saw assaults on England's soul, and again and again he gave his countrymen what he called "lessons in feeling". But increasingly this meant that his plays became scatter-shot denunciations, which winged a hundred targets and penetrated none. There were times when one felt that paranoia had triumphed over anger, prejudice over conviction and, sadly, clutter over art.

That is not an accusation which can be levelled at *Patriot*. To rise in the Imperial army Alfred Redl must battle at least as much with a lowly background as with his homosexuality. But he is the quietest and most aloof of all Osborne's outsiders. He seethes in private rather than rails in

public. The result is a subtler, slyer and maybe more convincing exposé of Establishment folly than in any of his other plays.

By the time of his death he had grown almost fond of Osborne the human vitriol bottle. That explains the largely tolerant reception of his last play, *Defence of the Realm*, which threw an ageing Jimmy Porter back into the fray. This time, his hate-objects included the Arts Council, people called Debbie and Kevin, charities with names like Aids Concern, the smoke police, Australians, vegetarians, Euro-MPs, and a Bishop of Bromley who now wears jeans and says: "What is Christianity but the story of the one-parent family?" It was outrageous, but it was fun.

Maybe the same will be true of the more complex *Henry Purcell*, which hops between

the present day and the Restoration and suggests that, despite plagues and hangings, then was more appealing than now. One speech denounces a modern "Cromwellian army of prigs, knighthood-seekers and grubbing time-servers", another a monarchy like "a tarnished gold filling in a mouthful of decay", and yet another a Common Market that's "about as drab a name for such a monumental swindle since some bright little German ad-man thought of putting wholesale murder on the market as National Socialism".

The speaker is nominally an actor and would-be playwright who fantasises he is Charles II, but his real identity is unmissable.

● *A Patriot for Me* premieres from Friday at the Barbican, London EC2 0J7 (0171-638 8891), opens Oct 18

Charmed by a little white bull

Tommy Steele is the star of this show, the toothy idol of mums throughout the theatre, the force that has brought together an ensemble of ten dancers and an orchestra of 14 (in black jackets before the interval and then in cyclamen pink), and after a while I was able to warm to his have-a-go energy and good humour, though I often cooled off again and had to be coaxed back. And boy, does he work at the coaxing.

He makes his first appearance at the top of a flight of steps, backed with twinkling lights and the target of a dozen spots coming at him from all directions. He wears a white suit and sings, "Somebody's got to see me!" but he's not exactly easy to miss. He holds his arms out a lot, sometimes as if he would hug us all, sometimes stretched far out at each side. Half close your eyes and he looks like laundry on a washing-line.

In his next number he cries, "What is it we're looking for? Applause, applause!" The ensemble at the side of the stage clap hands to the rhythm, and the audience is not discouraged from following suit. I don't care if it's the title-song of a well-known show, there's something offputting in the sight of a performer clamouring so intensely for plaudits.

Devoted fans adore all this stuff, and at the end of the show throw bouquets onto the stage because they love him so. By then he has found another revealing song, half apologising to someone who has passed a lifetime in his shadow but assuring her — and us too — "I would be nothing without you!" I guess that's true, and adoring fans presumably don't mind being called the wind beneath his wing, but I longed for a somewhat softer self-sell.

We do get this in the middle areas of the show, when the songs are prefaced by amusingly informative anecdotes. He engagingly reveals that before he shot to attention singing rock with

What a Show! Prince of Wales

the *Cave Man*, and then went to No 10 with *Singing the Blues*. He toured American air bases with a country and western group and called himself Chick Hicks.

That was in 1956, and he is both an undoubted stayer and a link with times long gone, overwhelmed, when still a merchant seaman on the Atlantic run, by the sight of Buddy Holly turning country into rock: later dancing with Gene Kelly, filming with Fred Astaire.

He certainly doesn't look 58, manages some nifty dance routines, and with a couple from the ensemble taps successfully through the *Good Morning* number from *Singing in the Rain* that climaxes with the three of them overturning the sofa and landing inches from the front stalls.

The girls and boys in the ensemble dance superbly in unison, show a nice sense of comedy lighting for the mike in *I Got Around* and are good to look at. Of course Tommy sings *The Little White Bull* but you can always shut your ears to that one, and *What a Mouth* and *What a Picture* more than make up for it.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Tommy Steele, as irrepressible as ever in the sparkling *What a Show!*

VISIONS OF AFRICA

A daily series of items from the Royal Academy's current exhibition of African art.

Ritual Pounder, Senegal, Ivory Coast, early 20th century, wood.

POUNDERS were commonly used in the rituals that took place before and after the burial of an elder from the Pop tribes. The pounders would keep time with the Poro orchestra. Sometimes the grave itself would be pounded, to ensure the dead man's spirit did not linger and wait to the "village of the dead". This example was removed from one of the sacred forests of Lullia in 1950.



Andy Lavender visits Paris to see Robert Wilson's Shakespearean monologue and a Giorgio Strehler production

One man and his Hamlet

THE light rises to reveal the black-suited Robert Wilson lying atop a mound of story slabs. "Had I but time..." he begins. This, the programme notes, is Hamlet at his moment of death, suspended in some purgatory. It is also the moment when one of the leading theatre artists in the world recognises again one of the most famous plays.

Hamlet: a monologue, adapted from Shakespeare's

play by Wilson and Wolfgang Wiens, opened in Houston earlier this year and has just finished a short run at the Bobigny Theatre in Paris. As the title suggests, Wilson is the only presence on stage. He does not stop at delivering Hamlet's lines, however, but

leaps between other speeches and, in places, between different parts of the play in re-enacting Hamlet's story. He presents, you might say, virtually scenes — 15 of them, in fact, each with a different scenic arrangement depicted in the programme by means of Wil-

son's simple sketches. The slabs are gradually whittled away until at one stage Wilson recedes in mid-air on the only one which remains. The lighting is quite beautifully controlled. A pinpoint spot casts an orange gleam on a sword, for instance, when the only other illumination is a cold spotlight on Wilson.

Wilson's collaborator, Hans Peter Kuhn, provides suitably atmospheric music and sound, and some of the text is delivered by way of a taped voiceover with which Wilson integrates his five utterances. Amid technological sophistication there are some ingeniously simple scenic devices. A black curtain comes half-way across the stage: Wilson pulls behind it to see Claudius praying and as he steps behind, out of sight, Claudius's lines issue forth. There is, too, a desperate ambience to the final scene in which Wilson pulls items of various characters' costumes from a trunk. Wilson's work has always been painterly, a theatre of images. Here he also proves that he is a distinctive performer.

What emerges from this radical solo? In some respects *Hamlet: a monologue* is the apogee of Wilson's highly individual art, indicating its strengths and perhaps its limits. I found myself marveling not at anything in Hamlet's story but at the smooth panache of the theatrical event — a dazzling, intellectual, visceral show whose emotional roots nonetheless seem thinly spread. It is a hugely skilful work, and it should not be beyond British producers to bring so fascinating a production to this country.

The trip to Paris provided the opportunity to see another show of genuine international

side-lighting — was of a burlesque seen through a mist, broad but strangely delicate. The show ended with a typically Strehleresque coup which captured these shifts of tone. Now returned to their original social stations, the characters begin a celebratory closing dance. There is a thunderclap and rain suddenly falls. The performers throw their tops into the wings and cavort semi-naked as the dim light fades. What had seemed a tamely conventional ending is suddenly transfused with wild abandon, echoing the production's sympathies with the more vigorous passions of the servants. One final observation: it is possible in French theatres to turn out the Exit lights, at least temporarily. This allows an absolute black-out, which both directors, so sensitive with light, made full use of. It is a wonderful effect.



SON OF MAN
by Dennis Potter

Potter's *Son of Man* is concerned that a charismatic Jew is stirring up trouble in Judea.

Although the young man speaks the truth, Potter is compelled to silence the rabble rouser mercilessly.

In Dennis Potter's *Son of Man*, Christ is portrayed as a man of the people, whose beliefs are forged in everyday experience.

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THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

End The play is being staged at the Garrick Theatre, and stars Nicholas Woodeson, Edward Peel, Susan Engel and Helen Schlesinger. Tickets £18.50 (normally £23.00) for Mon-Thurs evening performances and Wednesday and Saturday matinees on Oct 23-26, 28, 30, 31; Nov 1-2, 4. Tel 0171-494 5085.

James Wilby and Denis Quilley star in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* at the Barbican Theatre. This gripping depiction of a man determined to conceal his background and personality was written in 1965, and banned for some time because of its portrayal of homosexuality. Theatre Club members can save £5 on stalls or circle seats (normally up to £24) for performances on Oct 13-14, 16-19, 24-26. Tel 0171-638 8891.

Finally, Tommy Steele has hit the Prince of Wales Theatre with his dazzling song-and-dance spectacular *What a Show!* Featuring a company of 23 dancers, singer, and musicians, it includes classic songs from the charts, high-energy rock'n'roll and re-creations of showstopping production numbers from stage musicals. Top-priced tickets £20 (normally £25) for Mon-Fri evening performances and Wednesday and Saturday matinees until Oct 21. Tel 0171-839 5972 (Mon-Sat 10am-6pm), quoting *The Times Theatre Club* offer.

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● VANESSA REDGRAVE stars in and directs Shakespeare's magnificent historical tragedy — and ageless love story — *Antony and Cleopatra*. Members can

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● SEE Mark Rylance and Jane Horrocks in Rylance's controversial production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at the Malvern Festival Theatre over the weekend of Nov 11-12. For £65 per person, based on double occupancy, members can see the play, enjoy supper in a private room before the performance with complimentary drinks during the interval — and then have a bed-and-breakfast stay at the three-star De Vere Abbey Hotel, opposite the theatre. To book, call 01684 892277. Please secure your booking before Oct 28

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Dennis Potter's version of the death of Christ, *Son of Man*, is staged

VENUE: All week at the Barbican Pit in London

CHOICE 2

Leo McKern takes the title role in the theatrical comedy, *Hobson's Choice*

VENUE: All week at the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue

THE ARTS

CHOICE 3

Josephine Barstow tackles one of the great barnstorming roles in *Jenufa*

VENUE: Tonight at the Grand, Leeds

MUSIC

"Should a cathedral choir exist only for those who can afford the fees? Not if the cathedral is in Carlisle"

LONDON

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

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Riding on the crest of no nave



Fortified by free Coke, choristers of Carlisle's Cathedral of the Holy and Undivided Trinity get ready for the Border Cathedrals Festival

The Archdeacon of Carlisle, a round, twinkling figure, delights in taking the unsuspecting visitor aside, and pointing out a secret 14th-century roof boss. Hidden under the organ screen and depicting the Coronation of the Virgin Mary, Carlisle's Cathedral of the Holy and Undivided Trinity has never quite forgotten its dissolution in 1540, or that Cromwell's men knocked down the greater part of its Norman nave in the Civil War.

But Carlisle is not only a cathedral without a nave: it also sings its six choral evensongs a week without a choir. When the Border Cathedrals Festival opens on Friday, Carlisle will have to cram its audience into the presbytery and the aisles, and its visiting choristers, from Newcastle Cathedral and St Mary's Edinburgh, into private homes for their bed and breakfast.

The statutes of 1545 provided for six choristers: "Boys of tender age, and with sonorous voices, and apt at chanting." Carlisle's bachelors' dozen of 1995 fulfil all those conditions but, since the choir school closed in 1935, they have no building to call their own. Instead, the choristers are drawn from 15 city schools. The Dean and Chapter pay a chorister £150 a year to each chorister's parents.

One incentive to keep the troops all male is that, working outside the choir school system, Suter is free to encourage the boys to stay on in the choir after their voices break. "Even if they can't contribute much vocally for a while, they can still be learning. And we'll reap the rewards later on, when they become lay clerics and fill the back row."

Henry Stapleton, the Dean, enjoys travelling the length and breadth of the country pointing out, in lecture and article, that, according to research, the church draws only 7 per cent of the population in recruiting for cathedral choirs. "Should a cathedral choir exist only for those who can afford the fees? Of course, there are scholarships. But we recruit from a far larger pool of potential," he says.

Carlisle's head chorister could not read a note when he joined; now he could win an Oxbridge choral scholarship if he wanted it. "It's a case of rapid reading and rapid repartee. A demanding role to 'take a little and sing a little'." A rebuke to an over-zealous choir director, Suter says, "The boys are urged to narrow their descending semitones, if microtones. That's something they will certainly have to do in a new school piece called *Angel Heart*, written further by the young Scottish composer Edward Rushton. 'Don't know what they'll make of that,' Suter says. "The harp accompaniment is independent, and none of the boys has perfect pitch."

The Border Cathedrals Festival takes place from Friday to Sunday, and focuses on the music of Purcell and Tippin. For programmes and tickets, telephone 01228 49151. Further information about the choir from The Master of Music, 6 The Abbey, Carlisle CA3 6TZ (01228 26649).

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FIVE GUYS
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OPERA 1

Amsterdam is dazzled by every trick in the book in a new staging of Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron*



OPERA 2

Otello comes to the Met, along with a revolutionary new way of allowing the audience to follow the text in private

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

Not a note is left unturned as Kurt Sanderling and the Philharmonia play Beethoven piano concertos



MUSIC 2

Witty caricature from the actor Sam West saves the day in a Free Trade Hall performance of Walton's *Façade*

OPERA: Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron* dazzles in Amsterdam; opening night at the New York Met

LONDON CONCERTS

So this is what the promised land looks like

First, the bad news. The one depressing thing about the Netherlands Opera's astounding production of one of the defining artworks of our century is the realisation that it could not happen here. There isn't the money for either the necessary rehearsal or the staging itself, and I fear there is no longer the audience. Thirty years ago there were both: Peter Hall's lavish 1965 production of Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron* at Covent Garden, conducted by Georg Solti, played for two seasons.

There are both money and audiences in the Netherlands: one can only imagine what this *Moses* at the Amsterdam Muziektheater must have cost, but the political will is there, the subsidy is there, and so is an inquiring audience eager for tickets costing less than half those at Covent Garden. You could say that Netherlands Opera serves a constituency roughly comparable to that of Scottish Opera, whose very existence is even now hanging in the balance. What has happened to these islands in the past 15 years?

The rest of the news is good. Unstinting praise first to Winfried Muczewski's chorus, 109 strong, who not only sang with total unanimity, but made musical sense of their contribution as well, their carefully controlled internal balance revealing Schoenberg's thought processes with blinding clarity. Add a children's chorus, 22 members of the National Ballet and a border of extras, and you had a

cast of thousands, marshalled with the know-how of a D.W. Griffith by the producer, Peter Stein. The complex movement of masses, whether in carefully controlled disorder or *Chorus Line* precision, was jaw-droppingly impressive.

Otherwise, Stein just did the

Stein used every theatrical device at his disposal

piece in spare, marble-framed abstract decor by Karl-Ernst Herrmann and contemporary costumes by Mojdele Bickel. All right, 12 Tribal Chiefs didn't gallop in on horseback to join the worship of the Golden Calf, but four did. There was a lovely black cow, whose sacrifice was just sufficiently discreet to prevent animal-lovers' walking out in protest, and four naked virgins had their throats slit, which was actually rather disgusting. It's meant to be. Practically everyone got their kit off in the orgy and mumbled about with all the abandon of one of Hieronymus Bosch's less wholesome canvases. The only drawback was that when Moses returned they had to scramble sound, frantically, for their

undies, a bit like the aftermath of a police raid on a bordello. Even a staid Dutch audience had to chuckle.

More seriously, Stein used every theatrical device at his disposal to realise Schoenberg's vision: the Burning Bush blazed, its brightness varying with the intensity of God's word, and a double revolve made possible the composer's enigmatic stage direction for Moses and Aron approaching their flock together but at different speeds.

And Stein helped to create one trail-blazing performance. Chris Merritt has hitherto been known for heroic singing in Rossini's tenor roles and a somewhat solid stage manner. His Aron showed an artist transformed, relaxed and expressive, body language, highly mobile features, a sense of irony, all used to present the sweet voice of reason. Since David Pittman-Jennings's Moses seemed tetchy rather than visionary, the balance of the piece was decisively shifted.

The playing of the Concertgebouw Orchestra under Pierre Boulez was highly disciplined and of pellucid beauty. Was it a touch too analytical? The score can, maybe should, sound a little more late-romantic — it did under Solti. But the magnificent chorus guaranteed stunning musical impact. No, it couldn't happen here, but Amsterdam is no longer very far away. The production runs until October 28.

RODNEY MILNES



"An artist transformed": Chris Merritt steals the show as Aron in Schoenberg's masterpiece

Savouring a feast of Beethoven

Not an anniversary in sight: yet all ears seem to be tuned to Beethoven at the moment. As Simon Rattle unfolds his symphonies, Alfred Brendel completes his survey of the piano sonatas and Stephen Kovacevich starts his, so Andras Schiff turns to the piano concertos. But they are all over in two evenings, and it certainly took a strong stomach at the Festival Hall on Saturday to digest the Second, Third and Fourth in succession.

I should certainly have preferred to concentrate on one at a time, especially in performances as searching and demanding — both of the music and of the audience — as those worked through by Schiff and Kurt Sanderling with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Not a note was left unturned. The Second Concerto was the first that Beethoven wrote, and the excited intensification of every expressive opportunity in his new forte piano, as described by his pupil Carl Czerny, was given new meaning in the fingers of Schiff.

The opening sense of *brío* sparked out of pacing steady enough to set into relief the brilliance in tone-colour and articulation; and the counterpoint of voices in the cadenza was almost exaggerated in its debate. In that near-cadanza of exploration near the end of the second movement, Schiff let us hear the first, early presages of the last symphony of all, as the fingers seemed to search for the space between sound and silence itself, against hushed orchestral playing.

Schiff's feet are as fascinating to watch as his fingers. Again, like Beethoven himself, he seemed to be testing the pedal and its effects to produce an ever-shifting tone-palette and, in rapid touch pedalling, a special type of singing tone. This came into its own in the slow movement of the Third Concerto, where Schiff and

Sanderling conspired to give one of the few performances which had a real understanding of the power of the slow, silent pulse beating behind its shifting reverberations.

At least there was an interval in which to recover before the great and ever-enigmatic Fourth Concerto. The First and Fifth are paired together tonight: brace yourself.

The following evening at the Barbican saw an exhilarating performance of the Ninth Symphony by the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas. Tilson Thomas does not hang about in this work. Fierce with aerobic energy, taut and bright of chord, ever-propulsive of melody, his account of the Ninth is three movements of intense expectation leading, bursting almost, to its realisation and apotheosis in the human voice. This is an exciting and musically effective approach. His pacing sorely tests the soloists, though, and the less than perfectly cast team of Michele Crider, Maria Popescu, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Peter Rose tended to tangle.

If there are times when Beethoven's answer to Schiller's *Ode to Joy* seems just too absolute, too perfect of cadence, and his vision too mighty to assimilate, there is always Charles Ives's *The Unanswered Question*. This transcendentalist work for off-stage strings, distant trumpet and just three woodwind players on stage was most imaginatively programmed with the Beethoven. In between the two, equally movingly, came Schoenberg's *A Survivor from Warsaw*, with Robert Tear declaiming Schoenberg's own searing text against a harsh, white light of orchestral playing.

HILARY FINCH

Fine debut for your eyes only

James Levine, the artistic director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, has said on more than one occasion that superlatives would be introduced at the Met "over my dead body". On the opening night of the new season, Levine's body, apparently still in good health, was in the pit conducting a performance of Verdi's *Otello* that featured the debut of a unique new titling system which displays the translated text of the opera on individual screens mounted in front of the audience members.

Called Met Titles, the \$2.7 million system consists of a series of eight-by-two-inch screens, similar to those used in automatic banking machines, which are mounted on railings on the backs of the seats. The vacuum-fluorescent technology used to illuminate the text is filtered, so that the screens of adjacent seats



Best bet: Renée Fleming and Plácido Domingo

appear to be completely dark. Members of the audience who do not wish to view the titles can turn their screens off.

The Met's experiment is a brilliant success. Leaving the

Otello Metropolitan Opera, New York

proscenium arch uncluttered with projections and giving the opera-goer the option to eschew the titles are great advantages over ordinary superlatives, which would never have worked in the Met, with its high proscenium and steeply raked balconies. While some purists disdainfully chose not to use the system on the opening night, when the Met presents *The Queen of Spades* and *The Makropulos Case* later in the season one suspects all the screens in the house will be glowing.

For the system's debut, the Met has revived a taut, powerful production created last year by Elijah Moshinsky in honour of Plácido Domingo's

twenty-fifth season with the company. Michael Yeagan's sets are lavish, with dark gleams of blood-red marble and faded gilt.

Domingo proved yet again that he is the leading exponent of the role of *Otello*, even though he lacks the full measure of vocal power for some key moments of the drama. Renée Fleming is the Met's best Desdemona since the young Kurt Te Kanawa debuted in the role more than twenty years ago; her farewell scene with Emilia was electrifying.

James Morris was a dry, disappointing Iago, playing the evil captain with broad buffoonery that at times resembled a bad Faust. Levine, whose transformation into Mr Pickwick is now complete, conducted with powerful, fluid grace.

JAMIE JAMES

MANCHESTER CONCERTS: Composers' forum; an eccentric *Façade*

"IF YOU write music like this, you're your own worst enemy," said Martyn Brabbins to Jeremy Cull. "I think we should take out all the string parts," suggested John Casken in an effort to cut through the dense texture in the central section of Cull's Piano Concerto. So, with the expert and ever-patient Peter Lawson at the piano, they tried it that way and then tried it again with the lower strings restored but with the violins still omitted.

It was probably not a comfortable experience for the composer. But he had at least heard his work performed, and he had no doubt understood more about the risks involved in excessive complexity. It was unfortunate for him, perhaps, but rewarding for the small audience in Studio 7 in New Broadcasting House that the other work in this session of the Manchester Composers' Platform was an accomplished, excitingly coloured and dramatically structured score called *Pinari* by Serra Miyem Hwang.

Whether or not the Hallé Orchestra, which sight-read it brilliantly under Brabbins's direction, will ever play *Pinari* again, the BBC Philharmonic will almost certainly adopt it for one of its programmes.

Rewarding sound at the workshop

Trevor Green, BBC head of music in Manchester, whose inspiration the Platform was, is also seriously considering commissioning a new score from Marc Yates, one of the discoveries of the event. More will also undoubtedly be heard of Guy Newbury, whose *Momentanea* proved to be so intriguingly detailed and so very playable in one of the BBC Philharmonic sessions.

Thomas Armstrong met some opposition from the same orchestra for his scoring in his *Squaring Up*. But though the composer agreed that his piece was "very hard" and confessed that he didn't like the second half anyway, it did gather a compelling momentum, for all its metrical complexity.

Even the very frank session with the Lindsay Quartet, in which one composer was told that it would take 40 hours to rehearse his piece at all adequately, produced something encouraging in Alan Charlton's String Quartet No 1.

Certainly, it pleased John Casken, chairman of the panel, which had selected 22 scores from the 150 submitted and which was then on hand to offer its advice for the four days of workshops and open rehearsals. To do this without choosing one dud was an achievement second only to getting so many Manchester institutions — including the Royal Northern College of Music and the Northern Chamber Orchestra as well as the Hallé, the Lindseys and the BBC — to work together. And they are going to do it again in three years' time.

ECCENTRICITY is authenticity where *Façade* is concerned. There was a perceptible giggle in the Free Trade Hall when Susana Walton made her entry in a red dress, long pink boa, and red hat with black trimmings.

What Lady Walton lacks in comparison with Edith Sitwell is not presence but the Bloomsbury accent and the social reverberations that go

with it. Sam West, who shared the speaking role on this occasion, largely made up for that with some discreetly witty caricature. Neither of them, unfortunately, made consistently good use of the mikes, which meant that many of the words got lost, but both of them were admirably in time and firmly united in ensemble with Martyn Brabbins and the stylish Hallé Orchestra instrumentalists.

At the other end of a peculiarly top-heavy programme was Debussy's *Iberia*, which promised to be uncommonly effective. But the brilliant colouring and clarity in detail which were so illuminating in *Par les Rues et par les chemins* are not the qualities required for *Les Parfums de la nuit*. *Le Matin d'un jour de fête* was sensitively done, however.

Whatever it was that persuaded half the regular Hallé audience to avoid this concert, it cannot have been the prospect of hearing Julian Lloyd Webber in Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*. A slightly over-deliberate performance, Webber's account was no less pleasingly affectionate an interpretation for that and no less impressively executed.

GERALD LARNER



A wildflower Odyssey in Greece

TODAY and every day until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, in association with Cox & Kings, are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two. There is also an opportunity to win £20,000 towards an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

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Wetland plants and those along the coast will be studied and inland there are excursions to the olive groves, scrub and low lying woodland. There may also be a visit to the delightful town of Mytilos with its cobbled streets and hillside castle.

Although this is primarily a wildflower tour, the birds are spectacular. In May this year, 140 species were seen, including black and white storks, glossy ibis, spoonbill, large white egret and the rare Krupar's nuthatch.

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to act as a negotiator on behalf
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Position encompasses full PA and office responsibilities, complex
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Would suit a mature, experienced and energetic personality with
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The Company is newly established, successful, high-
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The position combines heavy and complex word
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Candidates must have first class Word for Windows 6 and
shorthand skills (60/100), be highly computer literate,
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Please fax letter and full CV including present salary to the
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Senior Secretary

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Starting salary will be in the range from £10,120
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Progress through the range and beyond is to a
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Telephone: 0171 839 6537

Closing date for applications:
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Phaidon Press Limited, the leading publisher of books on the
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Operating from new offices on the Grand Union Canal, this is a
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You will need to be highly motivated, confident and possess excellent
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An extremely attractive salary and benefits package is available to
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To apply, please either post or fax your current CV to
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Hours: 2.00pm to 6.30pm
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Acting as ambassador to the Area Manager, you will be responsible for organising and
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This is a demanding, challenging and varied role for an experienced senior
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For further details and an application pack send a POSTCARD ONLY to:
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We're disappointed with tempo
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You will provide full secretarial support to the European HR Manager as well as be responsible for personnel activities including: recruitment and selection of temporary and permanent support staff; payroll administration; maintenance of a personnel database and the preparation of monthly reports.

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This represents an excellent opportunity to get into and further develop a career in personnel.

Please send your CV with a covering letter stating your current salary quoting reference 1935/A to our Managing Consultant, Penelope Morton, Lansdowne, Rosedale House, Rosedale Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SZ. Fax (0181) 332 6902.

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Wednesday 25th October 1995

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the HOBSTONES

column

City Secretary

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Elizabeth Hunt
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THE TIMES

Crème 96

12-14 JUNE 1996

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHOW

In its inaugural year, The Times Crème '96 was a resounding success, delivering a first year quality audience of 4752 senior secretaries and executive personal assistants to 200 exhibitors at London's Olympia in June. Crème '96 will continue on this success and is already set to be an enlarged and even more far-reaching event next year.

For further details please complete and return the coupon below to: Jenny Moore, Crème '96, Europe House, East Smithfield, London E1 9AA

Name _____ Position _____
Company _____
Address _____
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I am interested in ☐ exhibiting ☐ visiting (please tick).

BY STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

Gloria had failed to convert a match point at 7-5. "Gloria won through the qualifiers and had nothing to lose," Ivanisevic said.

Ties to be played May 3 to 5

Russia and the United States, who are to meet in the 1995 final in Moscow at the beginning of December, were drawn away to Italy and at home to Mexico respectively in the first round for next year. The competition will then deepen. In 1997, it will feature a record 124 entrants.

No.2 in the Super Squash League this week may be enough to convince South Africa that Craig Van der Wath, their long-time leading player, may be worthy of inclusion in their squad for the world team championship in Cairo next month (Colin McQuillan writes).

The former champion of South Africa, 29, has suffered increasing fatigue problems since developing a perforated intestine from a suspected case of insecticide poisoning two years ago. Specialists at Trin-

Parke, who won his first big title in Malaysia this summer, is seen as capable of displacing Marshall in the rankings if they meet, as scheduled, in the quarter-finals of the World

FIXTURES: London Monarchs: April 14: Claymores (h); 20: Flairduin (a); 27: Rhein (a)
May 6: Barcelona (h) 11: Amsterdam (a) 19: Frankfurt (h); 27: Amsterdam (h); June 2:
Barcelona (a) 9: Claymores (a) 16: Rhein (h), Scottish Claymores: April 14: London
(a) 21: Barcelona (h) 28: Amsterdam (h) May 4: Rhein (h); 11: Frankfurt (a) 19: Rhein
(a) 26: Frankfurt (h); June 7: Amsterdam (a), *Orlando* (h); 26: Barcelona (a)

Douce back in saddle

De Villiers fails again

Lumley dominant

REAL TENNIS: Penny Lumley, the world champion, underlined her dominance by winning the French Open women's singles championship after a thrilling 2½-hour final against Sally Jones, the former world champion. She then teamed up with Sue Haswell to take the doubles title in commanding fashion against Jones and Alex Garside to retain their unbeaten record in women's doubles.

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Ranatunga has not forgotten the Asia Cup tournament, played in Sharjah in April, when Sri Lanka overcame

nine of the 17 players who toured England. Among those left out are Carl Hooper, Keith Arthurton and Kenny Benja-

SCHEDULE: Today: West Indies v Sri Lanka. Tomorrow: Pakistan v Sri Lanka. 13: Pakistan v West Indies. 15: Pakistan v West Indies. 16: Sri Lanka v West Indies. 17: Pakistan v Sri Lanka. 20: Final.

*Q97:
 *AK9:
 *2
 *J9

2
4

35	Re8+	Kd7
36	Re4	c3
37	Rd4	cb2+
38	Kb2	Rg5
39	e4	f5
40		f4

ZURICH Seniors Pro-Am Ladies' Trophy.
Final scores (GB and tie-unless stated):
206: L. Higgins 69, 70, 67, 211; R. Vane
(Aus) 70, 66, 75, 212; J. Horton 72, 72, 68; V.
Tshenolai (SA) 71, 70, 71; D. Butler 71, 70.

9.900; equal 2. L Podkopyeva (Ukr) and D Moceanu (US) 9.887. Floor: 1, G Gogean (Romania) 9.825; 2, J Liya (China) 9.875; 3, L Fumon (Fr) 9.825.

serve Riders Championships: 1, J Wilson (Cradley Heath) 14; 2, W Bowdidge (Shelfield) 13; 3, G Martin (Bewick) 12 (after run-off); 4, C Taylor (Wolverhampton) 12.

3-1, N. Metzger (Ger) vs A. Chiriacov (Rus) 1-3, 3-6, 6-8; D. Pinosil (Ger) vs M. Finner (Ger) 6-1, 2-8, 6-3; J. Novak (Cz) vs P. Korda (Cz) 2-6, 7-6, 6-0.

b. A freshwater shrimp
c. A computer function

c. A suicidal song

that is not helping to reduce the risk.
 this? **Solution page 46**

The implausible case of the forgotten feline

Sherlock Holmes famously asked the question about the dog barking in the night. As concerns the current, three-part thriller in *The Bill* (TV), I would ask you to consider the woman returning to a fire to rescue her cat. Yes, as any fool knows, poor June Ackland (Trudie Goodwin) has been persecuted by a maniac in the past two episodes. On Friday she was shot at (luckily a civilian took the bullet), then her flat was torched. For June, it's been one of those weeks when nothing goes right. Last night, she removed to a safe house with a hacking cough and supplied a list of suspects. And though the unfolding investigation is well done (tomorrow, Thursday, will see the conclusion), Holmes's barking dog question just keeps nagging. For just as the dog did not bark, June did not go back for her cat. Isot that the strangest thing?

For *The Bill*, this sensational

three-parter is an experiment. The series has always prided itself on its compact, discrete half-hours, and is vehement about not becoming a soap. But it is possible that the format grows tired. Personally I miss *The Bill* more often than I watch it, simply because there is no particular reason to keep up its strengths remain its casual authority on police matters, its ingenuity in finding half-hour plots, and the staying-power of the cast. For this three-parter, DS Jo Morgan (the woman who looks like Jo Durie) has returned from the Regional Crime Squad, which is nice.

Who is after June? Lines of inquiry have been exhausted. On Thursday, she will return to the streets, to draw fire, in an episode entitled "Bait". The difficulty for a non-soap character is that she can't react as a woman; apart from anything else, there's no time. She has burst into tears just once.

wanted details of her private life, she railed against the intrusion, because, well, June is a character who cannot remember she has a cat. "I'm very unattached," she declared. But people always go back for the cat they struggle outside with film-heeled frenzied yelling. "Tibbles!" June escaped and forgot all about it. Only when she returned to the blackened flat next day and tripped over the cat did she recollect its existence. At least this tells us who the sniper is, anyway. He is the militant arm of the Cats Protection League.

The clever thing about BBC1's *Crimewatch* File these days is that the police reconstruction scenes are so woefully like-like, it's hard for the viewer to establish whether the figures on screen are real police or not. In fact, they are actors. But they are a special sort of actor who can deliver stilted rubbish in the

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

authentic manner of a limelit copper, and who can raise a hand in the incident room to contribute a scripted thought complete with the speech-marks. "He used a lot of control over Emma," says one. "Used to giving orders?" The case last night concerned a south London rapist, caught with the help of 600 *Crimewatch* viewers. Last week, in the horribly choreographed trailers for *Crimewatch* UK (with Nick Ross and Jill Dando busy cross-examining an official, they told us "Even if you've never solved a case in *Crimewatch*, tune in on Tuesday" — as though recognising a murder implement is the same sort of thing as getting a number on the lottery. But with 600 people phoning in about the rapist, perhaps that's how the show really works. Perhaps many people sit with the phone on their lap during *Crimewatch*, dialling in after every item. "I know that man!" "I've been there!" "That's my old car!" "I did it myself!"

Last night's case was ideal for *Crimewatch* File, since it combined a cast-iron result with a

shown Emma such acts of kindness afterwards. "The rapist recognised this picture of himself, and confessed all. It was amazing. To a psychopath, you see, rape is just an unconventional way of making friends."

On the tarker side of the law, the continuing solicitor sit-com *Is It Legal?* (ITV) concerned a recognised office phenomenon — the glamorous newcomer, Peter (Raymond Coulthard) looked like the blond cartoon John Smith in *Pocahontas*, and was such a hit with all the impressionable non-hoppers that they swarmed around him, offering gifts. Even the golf-obsessed Dick (Jeremy Clyde) shared the infatuation, and presented Peter with a rather nice Nick Faldo doll, complete with teeny golf bag and clubs. Meanwhile, Patrick Barlow's infatuation with the Mister Bappy delivery girl is still heart-

breaking, and the filings grow ever more desperate as a mark of his feelings. Last night she walked in announcing "Brown sugar and mustard bap." What a sad, sad case.

Polishing off the evening was an enjoyable *Law Show* film, *Mondrian*: Mr Boogie Woogie Man (BBC2). Mondrian was the Philip Larkin of art: a stiff man in a suit and specs, passionate about jazz, too cheap to get married, and a genius at seeing the shape between the lines. Matthew Collings wrote and narrated, with bits of high-quality opinion from Robert Hughes, and a Mondrian lookalike dancing a very curvy Charleston in a strictly cubed Mondrian room.

Mondrian was a theosophist who hated nature and chaos, as might have been deduced from the pictures. "His ideas were hogwash," laughed Hughes. "But his paintings weren't."

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (83459)
 - 7.00am Breakfast News (830303)
 - 9.05am Mastermind Finals (1) (8375485)
 - 9.35am The Funnell Boys (8357904)
 - 10.00am News (Ceslex) and weather (8274508)
 - 10.05am Conference Live 95: The Conservative Party (834237343) 12.50pm Regional news and weather (83013035)
 - 1.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceslex) (827817)
 - 1.30pm Neighbours: Phil's weight-watching gives Marlene a taste opportunity. (Ceslex) (81094189) 1.50pm Hawkeyes (83705188) Northern Ireland: Island Race 2.20 The Great British Quiz 2.45-5.00pm Spotlight: Special: Liechtenstein v Northern Ireland (83705188)
 - 2.35pm Island Race (Ceslex) (83069701) 3.05pm The Great British Quiz (8368614)
 - 3.30pm Ants in Your Pants (83496701) 3.50pm CluedUp/Video (1) (8382327) 4.10pm Get Your Own Back (Ceslex) (8368614) 4.35pm Piranha (Ceslex) (8267548)
 - 5.00pm Newsround (Ceslex) (8316986) 5.30pm Blue Peter (Ceslex) (8219121)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (1) (Ceslex) (8114343) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 - 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Ceslex) (808)
 - 6.30pm Regional news magazines (184) Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 - 7.00pm This is Your Life. Michael Aspel opens the red book. (Ceslex) (83053)
 - 7.30pm As Time Goes By. Jean Worries that Lionel's work prospects are looking less than rosy and when she tackles his publisher to stop him poaching her secretary, she discovers Lionel has been fired, accompanied with the truth: 38-year-old Lionel, married and Geoffrey Palmer (1) (Ceslex) (8312)
 - 8.00pm How Do They Do That? Includes the secret of how dragsters get their cars to accelerate from 0 to 240mph in just six seconds, and Alison Streeter explains how she has beaten the English Channel 32 times, plus a three-way, non-stop Channel swim. With Eamon Holmes (Ceslex) (83053)
 - 8.45pm Points of View (1) (Ceslex) (83053)
 - 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Ceslex), regional news and weather (83458)

- BBC1**
- 6.00pm The Learning Zone: Pandora's Box (84701)
 - 7.00pm Breakfast News (Ceslex) and signing (1764625)
 - 7.15pm Leaside (8230701) 7.40pm Stargay (1) (Ceslex) (8340492) 8.05pm Pirates of Dark Water (1) (Ceslex) (8368184)
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 - 1.00pm The Geography Programme (1) (81035072)
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DWYER ASKED TO
CHANGE LUCK
OF THE IRISH

SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11 1995

FAVOURABLE DRAW
BOOSTS BRITAIN'S
DAVIS CUP HOPES

England give youngster free role

Venables asks McManaman to take wing

FROM DAVID MILLER IN OSLO

EVERY so often, a player emerges who is capable of influencing not so much the result as the course of an international football match. An intelligent schemer-cum-scorer. Forty years ago, it was Bobby Charlton. Subsequently, there have been Martin Peters, Peter Beardsley, Paul Gascoigne and now, maybe, Steve McManaman.

For the match against Norway here tonight, Terry Venables has given McManaman a simultaneous freedom and responsibility that speaks volumes about the England coach's confidence in the range of ability of Liverpool's young attacking midfielder. Others in the past, such as Laurie Cunningham and John Barnes, have never fulfilled their potential. McManaman has a tenacity that could help to lead England towards a new dawn.

This is less an occasion for revenge, for the embarrassment that befell Graham Taylor's misbegotten selection two years ago, than for England to discover a compact, functional style away from home. McManaman has been given a licence within that framework to do almost as he pleases.

Venables has instructed him to give width, on either flank, and, if he cannot find freedom there, to seek it through the middle. It would be premature to suggest that McManaman stands on the threshold of greatness, yet he is aware that he has the chance to be an inspiration in a side short of excellence.

The key to his potential lies not only in his thrilling ability to beat opponents but also in his background: a member of what is still arguably the most articulate team in England, built, as for the past 30 years, upon retaining possession. Liverpool is the academy that was once found at West Ham

United. "If you want to see our [emphasis on] passing, come and watch us training," McManaman said yesterday. He shares the midfield with Jamie Redknapp, his equally promising young colleague, plus Robert Lee and Dennis Wise. There is an exciting vein of confidence running through this team, in which four players are 23 or under. "We want to make it difficult for Gascoigne to get back in the side," McManaman said, without a hint of immodesty.

Liverpool, in his opinion, are playing even better than last year, and he has that

chance must await the failure of the team or injury to his rivals, at least for now.

There is no direct replacement for Gascoigne. Lee effectively takes the place of Platt, with the responsibility to move into scoring positions, while Redknapp shares the up-and-down role more associated with Ince. The instructions to Barmby, as yet undisclosed, may be similar to those for Beardsley: tuck in behind Shearer.

Venables's prime concern is centred on defence against opposition that are masters of the swift, long-ball counter-attack. "Can we enjoy defending against a team that will take the ball to us?" Venables asks. Young Gary Neville is in the process of making the right back position his own — under challenge from Jones — but Pallister and the veteran Adams, surviving members of the ignominious 2-0 defeat here and with 54 caps between them, are perhaps playing for their places as much as the youngsters.

Justen Flo, the lofty Sheffield United forward who caused England so much bother in 1993, is suspended from Norway's critical qualifying tie in Holland, and so is rested from a partially experimental Norway team. He is replaced by Tore Andre, his younger brother.

Although Norway suffered a run of poor results in the World Cup finals last year, Egil Olsen, their coach, will persist with their expedient, unattractive style. "I still prefer the long-ball game," he said yesterday. "The attempt to get forward as fast as possible after the breakdown. The coach of Rosenborg [who recently beat Blackburn] and me are the same."

Apart from the abandoned match in Dublin, this is the first match for Venables away from home. There were echoes of Sir Alf Ramsey yesterday in his dogmatic insistence that he would ride whatever criticisms there might be over his selection — the omission of Ferdinand, for instance. "It's the team I want," he said.

They did well at Wembley [against Colombia], and it's important to do the trick of both achieving a satisfactory result, which the public wants, and finding a pattern which will hold the team together and help it develop."

While I do not expect a flourish from England, I expect confidence, with the probability of a low-scoring draw or, optimistically, a narrow victory.

Pressure on Irish, page 44
Germans wary, page 44
Scotland at ease, page 44



Shearer retained



Murphy's delight at his return to race riding is clear as he is led into the winner's enclosure at Chepstow yesterday

Murphy returns in style

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the accident 17 months ago that nearly cost him his life and looked sure to end his career as a leading National Hunt jockey, Declan Murphy yesterday experienced a "dream come reality" as he made a winning return to race riding at Chepstow.

Murphy, 28, was accorded a hero's welcome after making all the running on Jibreen in the Annual Flat v Jump Jockeys Challenge to complete a remarkable comeback from his fall from Aroot at Haydock Park on May 2 last year. Murphy, who suffered a fractured skull and was on a life support machine for four days after the accident, in which he was pitched under the hooves of the horses racing behind, was elated. "I have achieved some good victories but nothing has meant as much as this," he said.

"It's everything I dreamt of since my accident. I have never been on a cloud as high as this. My plans are to try and remain on that cloud for the next couple of days. It is a

dream come reality. I could ride 500 winners in a season and it would not mean as much as this."

The seven-furlong race yesterday was on the flat, but his first experience of riding over jumps since his fall is likely to take place before the week is out. "I would like to think I will be somewhere on Saturday — on a horse," he said.

Although Jibreen had been unplaced in his six starts this season and carried top weight yesterday, it is an adage that jockeys making an emotional comeback, or having the final ride of their career, often finish up in the winner's enclosure — to the delight of all concerned.

As Murphy cantered down to the start, punters were not slow to latch on to that unusual form pointer and backed Jibreen from 11-2 to 3-1 favourite. Geoff Lewis, the trainer, was under no illusions as to the possible outcome. "If Jibreen is back to his best, he is a steering job," he said. So it proved. Murphy quickly

ly had his horse running alongside the favoured stands' rail and poached an early lead which never looked like being assailed. "It's one of those things that happens," Lewis said with a smile. "Fancy having a jockey as good as him being able to claim a 5lb allowance. He could give a few of them 5lb."

Not surprisingly, given his experiences, Murphy speaks as a changed man. "The reality of it is I am 28 years old and I may be able to do this for another seven or eight years," he said. "The thought of that is amazing and words do not describe it. It is such a privilege to come out and perform like that. We take so much of life for granted; when you go through what I have gone through, you appreciate it so much."

As lines of punters formed to collect their winnings, the only people who might have disagreed yesterday were the bookmakers.

Simon Barnes, page 43

Samoans confident of dismissing Wales

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

GRAHAM LOWE, the coach of the Western Samoa rugby league side, remains confident that his team can reach the semi-finals of the Halifax World Cup at the expense of Wales, notwithstanding the availability of Jonathan Davies for the countries' decisive group match at Swansea on Sunday.

The Wales captain sustained mild concussion in a tackle during the 28-6 defeat of France on Monday night in Cardiff, but suffered no ill-effects. "I felt the hip bone of one of the French players crack against my face," Davies said. "I was a bit wobbly, but feel fine now."

Lowe was an interested bystander at Ninian Park. His Samoan side meet

France there tomorrow. "We hope to catch the French a bit fatigued. We have a similar task as them because we have to play Wales just three days after our first game," he said, "but, as I've told the players, if we're good enough, we'll make it, and if we're not, we won't."

Of France, Lowe said: "They seemed more disciplined than in the past. Often, they just crumble under pressure, but that wasn't the case on Wednesday and the scoreline flattered Wales. They scored some good tries but the French finally succumbed to the sheer weight of possession and field position against them."

Meanwhile, Wales have escaped punishment for mistakenly fielding one more than the four permitted substitutes against France, a confusion which has

prompted a warning by Maurice Lindsay, the tournament director, to all teams to heed all rules relating to permanent and blood-bin substitutions.

Greg McCallum, the world cup referee's director, studied a video of the match, that confirmed that the extra substitution involved the return of Allan Bateman, from the blood-bin, to replace the injured Davies. Paul Harrison, the Rugby Football League spokesman, said: "It was thought by the Welsh management and officials that Jonathan Davies was leaving the field under the blood-bin rule. The actions of Bateman, returning to the field were of accidental rather than deliberate."

Test of resolve, page 46
Lam's tale, page 46

Graf misses Brighton tournament in wake of tax inquiry

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

STEFFI GRAF, who has been questioned over her father's imprisonment in Germany for alleged tax evasion, has withdrawn from the Brighton international tennis tournament next week and is unlikely to play competitively again before November.

Graf, who is ranked joint No 1 in the world with Monica Seles, was given a late wild card to the tournament, which begins next Tuesday and which she has won six times, but the top seed then decided to return the invitation.

"I don't think that she will play again until Philadelphia in early November," Peter Danckert, Graf's lawyer, told a German sports news agency. The event in Philadelphia starts on November 6.

Graf, 26, has not played since beating Seles in the final of the United States Open championships in New York last month. She has said that she will reduce her tournament schedule because of a chronic back condition.

Peter Graf, her father and

Davis Cup optimism 45
Bates triumphs 45

manager, is in custody for allegedly failing to report \$35.2 million (about £23 million) of her earnings over several years. Graf was questioned at length by investigators last week.

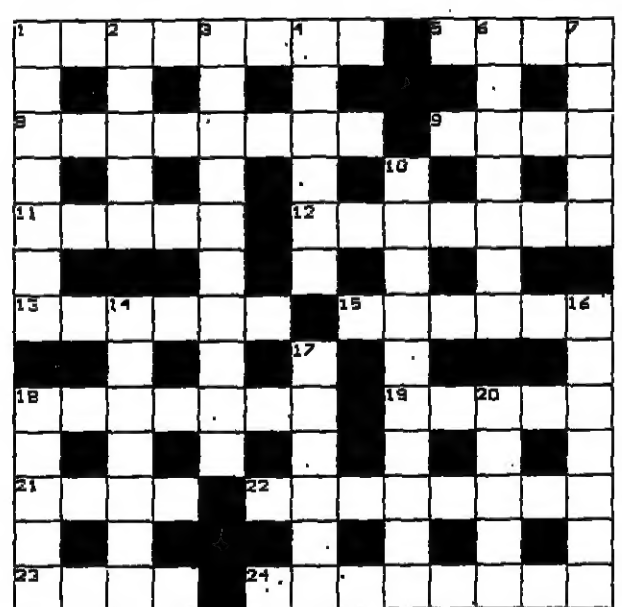
Prosecutors have denied reports that Graf faced arrest and Danckert said that he expected the case against his client to be dropped soon. "I am convinced that the proceedings against Steffi will be stopped by the end of the year," he said yesterday.

George Hendon, the tournament director, had asked the Women's Tennis Association for an adequate replacement to be summoned even before Graf's withdrawal. He had requested that Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario be put on stand-by.

The odds on them appearing, however, are negligible. Seles has been told by medical advisers to rest her damaged knee for at least another fortnight and Sanchez Vicario, complaining of fatigue, is away somewhere over an extended holiday.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 597



ACROSS

- 1 Barrister's rooms (8)
- 2 Rapid, low engine sound (4)
- 3 View; hostile manner (8)
- 4 Child Norse god (4)
- 5 Curt (5)
- 6 Wilkie —, Moonstone author (7)
- 7 Hat; seedling cover (6)
- 8 Lawn game (6)
- 9 Bewilder (7)
- 10 In worse health (5)
- 11 Frost; — of the Ancient Mariner (4)
- 12 Deprived of escape (8)
- 13 Suspend (4)
- 14 (Written) supplement (8)

DOWN

- 1 Without order (7)
- 2 Place of sacrifice (5)
- 3 Wife (occ.) (6,4)
- 4 Demote; subjugate (6)
- 5 Roman emperor, had wall built (7)
- 6 Group of species (5)
- 7 Loyalty to superior (10)
- 8 Team alias: San Remo (anag.) (7)
- 9 Slavery (7)
- 10 Type of shoe, bags, Movement (6)
- 11 Covered entrance (5)
- 12 Claring, violent, shocking (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 596

ACROSS: 1 Mangle 5 Rob Roy 8 Long 9 Cock-eyed 10 Fillet 12 Kick 15 Virginia Woolf 16 Pelt 17 Danube 19 Opposite 21 Beam 22 Blithe 23 Motley

DOWN: 2 Aborigine 3 Gag 4 Exotic 5 Rock 6 Break down 7 Ode 11 Lights out 13 Celebrate 14 Day-dream 18 Fine 20 Pal 21 Bit

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 592

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Kamikaze 5 Hull 9 Lincoln 10 Derby 11 Bath 12 Tonnell 16 Endings 16 Pelt 17 Danube 19 Opposite 21 Beam 22 Blithe 23 Motley

DOWN: 1 Kyle 2 Manna 3 Know-how 4 Zenith 6 Unready 7 Loyalist 8 Edge 13 Despair 15 Despair 17 Leg-iron 18 Tetchy 20 Avar 22 Say-so 23 Seek

PRIZE: A return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is J Tierney, Cady, Merseyside 2nd PRIZE: A return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is D Rowell, Winchester, Hampshire. All rights subject to availability.

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Test of resolve, page 46
Lam's tale, page 46